Daily Report

Latin America

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Guatemalan President on Summit; Pledges Commitment to Purge

PA2910001893 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 28 Oct 93

[From the "Telepress" newscast]

[Text] According to President Ramiro de Leon Carpio, the Central American summit will continue as scheduled today and tomorrow, despite the social effervescence prevailing in the country. De Leon Carpio also commented the position adopted by congressional deputies. He noted that several recent polls, figures for which will soon be released, show that referendum results will favor purging the Congress and Supreme Court of Justice.

[Begin recording] [De Leon] Yesterday's work, which was quite trying, by the way, will continue today in different areas. It will focus mainly on the terms of the protocol for the Central American Integration Treaty. We view this process very positively, as this is a highly important step for 30 million Central Americans, who are waiting for us to sign this protocol for the Central American Integration Treaty. Not only is this an enormous step favoring relations between our nations and our people, it also promotes the integration of an economic bloc. This kind of unity will permit us to meet other international economic blocs on equal ground and secure overall development for our countries.

[Unidentified reporter] Would you comment on the situation at the Congress, Mr. President?

[De Leon] The situation at the Congress results from the deputies' intransigence and ineptitude—with all due respect—and the Supreme Court justices. They have had enough time and opportunity to purge themselves or resign, as the people are pleading and demanding. You are well aware of this.

I am very pleased to announce that we have received the results of the first polls. This referendum has created great worldwide interest, due to its unique nature within the democratic process. Several local and international research agencies are conducting polls on this. Preliminary results released yesterday state that 85 percent of those living in the capital will vote yes, thus expressing support for the president of the republic and calling for the resignation of the deputies and magistrates. In rural areas, polls average 78 to 80 percent in favor. As I said, these respectable local and international research agencies will release their results very soon. Their figures indicate that 78 to 80 percent of the rural population will say yes, thus supporting the president and asking him to reaffirm his petition that Congress deputies and Supreme Court justices tender their resignations.

What happened yesterday—and today as well, I think—is nothing more than an atmosphere of dissatisfaction created precisely because the people cannot stand the deputies' attitude any longer. They reject the way in which lawmakers are reforming the Constitution. This is not just the people alone but also many duly qualified entities like the Association of Attorneys and Notary Publics, organizations that defend the political Constitution, the Catholic Church, people's organizations, and others. This means there is a clear and open rejection, not only of the way in which constitutional reforms are being presented but also of the deputies handling the reforms, because they are the same deputies the people have asked to resign; the people don't want them any more.

This is a very difficult historic and political moment, and the president of the Republic has chosen the difficult way out. It would have been easier not to respond to the people's cries or not to become the intermediary between the people and these two branches of government. A president is dedicated to his people, however, and the people are asking him and demanding that he echo their plea in the Congress and the Supreme Court of Justice, which is what I have done. Now, please note that I have done so in accordance with the democratic process and within the framework of the Constitution. Many countries are conducting similar purges in their efforts to fight corruption. The Guatemalan president—and this must be said—has undertaken a bold and resolute fight against corruption at all levels and will continue the fight. [end recording]

Rio Group Presidents Did Not Sign Santiago Declaration

PY2810181693 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0221 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Quito, Ecuador 27 Oct (EFE)—Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma today reiterated here that neither Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori nor any of the other presidents signed the final declaration of the Seventh Summit of the Rio Group that was held two weeks ago in Santiago de Chile.

Silva Cimma stated during a news conference: "Rio Group agreements are reached by consensus. By tradition and custom they are never signed. So this most recent declaration was not signed by Fujimori or by any of the presidents, according to custom."

The Chilean foreign minister minimized this fact saying, the signature of the presidents on the document is a "simple formality."

Silva Cimma previously told EFE: "Signing the document is merely a simple formality without importance. All the presidents totally agreed with the declaration and President Fujimori's only objection was that it was too long and contained too many details."

The Santiago Declaration issued by the Rio Group, the most important Latin American political mechanism, strongly criticizes trade protectionism practiced by developed countries and asks for a definite conclusion to the Uruguay Round of GATT Talks.

The five-page declaration reiterates its decided support for democracy in the continent, condemns the arms race and drug trafficking, and endorses the North American Free Trade Agreement among Mexico, the United States, and Canada.

Fujimori was readmitted into the Rio Group during the Santiago summit after being excluded for more than a year following his "self coup" in April 1992, which is why he did not attend the previous summit in Buenos Aires 12 months ago.

El Salvador's Cristiani Inaugurates Economic Headquarters

PA2910020093 San Salvador TVCE Television Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Speech by Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani at the inauguration of the Secretariat of Central American Economic Integration headquarters in San Salvador—live]

[Text] Your Excellencies Messrs. presidents of Central America, and first ladies, Mr. Representative of the Central American Parliament, Mr. Representative of the Supreme Court of Justice, Mr. Vice President, Your Excellencies Messrs. Ambassadors and honorable heads of diplomatic missions, Honorable Secretary General of the Central American Integration System [SICA], Messrs. cabinet members, honorable representatives of international organizations, special guests, dear friends:

We are profoundly honored and satisfied to be here today, gathered at the headquarters of the Secretariat of Central American Economic Integration [SIECA] for the solemn inauguration of its building. Imbued with a renewed spirit of integration and unity required by the times, the Central American presidents have been working with perseverance and in an orderly fashion so that Central America may be unprecedentedly cohesive while opening itself to the outside world with an unprecedented outlook.

The creation of SICA emerged as one of the concrete expressions of an undertaking of historical relevance, organized under the executive direction of a general secretariat. All efforts accomplished until now, and whatever emerges in the future, will be oriented toward shaping a new Central American vision.

Experience has taught us that content is what allows form to survive, because these are the instruments that allow us to give practical shape to content. Instruments are created in order to ensure efficient performance, and that is precisely the case with SICA. The historical opportunity now confronting us is unsurpassable and truly has no other clear and inspiring precedents. We are currently immersed in the resurgence of a new Central American conscience that with each passing day is more and more free of nostalgic unionism in order to work within an integrated system where we may all feel comfortable and creative, full active and with a growing goal of common destiny.

We mention work because we believe that is the key word in today's Central America. Everything we now have must be redefined, and most of it must be redone. As a start, we must work based on the integration ideal of a new Central America which we not only aspire to, but one which time and international reality demands. What we now have in hand is an ideology for coordinated occasion, as a demand of this pluralist society to which we all belong.

A fundamental point of our endeavor is to work in every field of human activity. Although there are tasks which within the context of a particular situation may be of a priority nature, the main focus of Central American integration must be to cover every area in the complex reality surrounding us. The days when integration was limited solely to commercial exchange and economic cooperation are long gone. The road starts at that point—but that's only the start of a long road. We aim for a Central America which, without having to renounce its well defined national characteristics, can function with a major sense of nationhood, with all the possibilities that this guarantees in an ever more globalized world, which is at the same time so very regionalized.

The duties and performance of this general Secretariat are fundamental to the success of integration, into which so many Central Americans are placing so much willingness and confidence. The future is ours if we are willing to confront it with audacity and a creative spirit. Our feet are rooted firmly in the soil of our predecessors, but success will only be guaranteed through pragmatic imagination which we are able to develop from now on.

Inaugurating these installations is thus a concrete symbol of our commitment to integration. The Cental American presidents hereby celebrate this moment and reaffirm here and now our commitment to Central America and its grand and noble people—people anxious to consolidate democratic freedoms, the only safe road to national and regional stability.

Messrs. Presidents, Mr. Secretary General: in the name of the Salvadoran Government and its people, we reiterate our unshakable vocation for Central America which goes much further than a simple Central American ideal. This is a time of great challenges to our region. United we will be able to meet all these challenges for the benefit and the progress of this pluralist region to which we all feel proud to belong and serve. Let this new Central American entity be a center of light and beacon for initiatives. This is our most ardent wish. God will accompany us all in this magnificent and constructive objective. God bless Central America. Thank you very much.

Central American Population Grows at Accelerated Pace

PA2910012493 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1544 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Report by Ana Chacon]

[Text] San Jose, 24 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—Central America is maintaining an accelerated annual population growth rate—a rate that has hit 4 percent in Honduras—which has forced social organizations to reformulate their population projections for the year 2000. The Costa Rican Demographic Association (ADC) reported Central American population data within the framework of UN World Population Week (25-29 October).

Demographer Maria Amalia Quiros attributed the regional population growth trend to the "prevalence of very strong cultural factors" that affect birth control strategies.

Today, the population of Central America amounts to 30.7 million people, according to statistics reported by the ADC in San Jose. Guatemala has 9.7 million inhabitants, El Salvador 5.6 million, Honduras 5.5 million, Nicaragua 4.1 million, Costa Rica 3.2 million, Panama 2.3 million, and Belize 200,000.

The life expectancy of those 30 million people is as follows: Guatemala, 60 years for men and 65 for women; El Salvador, 61 for men and 68 for women; Honduras, 62 for men and 66 for women; Nicaragua, 59 for men and 65 for women; Costa Rica, 75 for men and 79 for women; Panama, 71 for men and 75 for women; and Belize; 67 for men and 72 for women.

The data on women's participation in the economy indicate that 36 and 34 percent of the Nicaraguan and Salvadoran labor force, respectively, is feminine. In Costa Rica, Panama, and Honduras, 28 percent of the workers are women. These nations are followed by Guatemala, where 25 percent of the women are wage earners.

Quiros told ACAN-EFE that the ideal of the Central American family, although it has decreased in the past 20 years, is an average of four to seven children per woman, with the exception of Panama where the average is two children and Costa Rica three.

Expert Simon Benjamin told ACAN-EFE that the demographers agree with environmentalists who have issued warnings about the impact the population will have on the environment. "A population that is increasingly more numerous demands a greater amount of natural resources to satisfy its needs," he asserted. He also said that pollution, environmental deterioration, and the advancing boundaries of rural and urban habitats on natural areas is on the rise. Benjamin added, "All this affects the population's quality of life."

Costa Rica has the second lowest birth rate in the region. The current 2.3 percent growth rate will increase the population by 2.3 million, which is 360,000 more than estimated. These new citizens will demand housing, health care, and education from a nation that did not expect them, Quiros said.

Demographic expectancy in Costa Rica, with a current population of 3.2 million people, indicates that the population will be about 5.25 million by the end of the century. The most recent estimates, however, set this figure at 5.609 million, Quiros added.

Honduras has the highest demographic growth rate with 4 percent. Guatemala is close behind with 3.9 percent. Nicaragua has 3.8 percent, and El Salvador follows with 3.6 percent.

Quiros said that social organizations have been unable to slow the growth rate. However, "this should not be seen as a failure, but as an indication of prevailing cultural patterns that promote the ideal of a large family." The expert added that birth control and family planning campaigns were traditionally directed at women, which left men and adolescents out of the program. Men and adolescents were later included with the implementation of AIDS prevention plans.

Quiros added that none of the Central American countries has a population control policy in effect. Contraceptive methods have been available for many years in Costa Rica, thanks to the nation's widespread public health system. This, however, "would seem to be insufficient because there has been no change in the birth rate," Quiros said.

Demographers agree that intensive education and awareness programs are needed to change the people's outlook regarding the appropriate number of children to have in order to slow the population growth rate.

Cuba

Robaina Announces Resumption of Relations With Colombia

PA2910013693 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0017 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Report by Barbara Betancourt from the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] Cuba and Colombia have resumed diplomatic relations, as announced by the foreign ministers of the two countries—Noemi Sanin in Bogota and Roberto Robaina in Havana—following two years of close consular relations in several areas. This was not a formal diplomatic relationship, only close ties between the two countries.

I emphasize that these were only consular ties, because Cuba and Colombia have had no diplomatic relationship since 1981. In 1981, following a Colombian decision, the two countries broke off relations.

During the Ibero-American Summit in Guadalajara, Mexico, the first Ibero-American Summit, the presidents of the two nations decided to initially resume consular relations. At that same time Cuba opened a consulate and Chile opened a consulate in Havana. This was an agreement signed by the three countries, under which Cuba resumed consular relations with Colombia and Chile. Now Colombia has raised the level of this relationship by announcing its decision—rather, the two countries announced their decision to resume ambassadorial relations.

I participated in a brief ceremony at the Cuban Foreign Ministry, during which Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina announced the decision. If our technician would help us here, I would like you to listen to the words of Roberto Robaina.

[Begin Robaina recording] Please pardon my haste, but it was important to summon you quickly, because at this exact moment the governments' decision to reestablish diplomatic relations is being announced in another Latin American capital. I have the mission of informing all national and international newsmen here that the Governments of Cuba and Colombia decided today to reestablish diplomatic relations. I think that this resumption of diplomatic relations must be viewed as the continuation of exchanges in many fields, including culture, education, and sports, which we have been cultivating.

During the Ibero-American Summit in Guadalajara in 1991 there was a particular moment of attention where we could say the first important step was taken toward reestablishing such relations.

I think it is tremendously important that we report on all of this, given the fact that it is something we might describe as an extremely important link in what has always motivated Latin American countries and their governments—the integration of Latin America. We have always belonged to that Latin America and are proud to be a part of it.

We wanted to inform you of this decision. We will establish respective embassies in both capitals very soon. We wanted the information to be disseminated as quickly as possible. Both governments agreed to announce it simultaneously in Colombia and Havana. [end recording]

International Humanitarian Law Center To Open

FL2810131193 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Cuba will soon have a center for informing on and disseminating information about international humanitarian law [derecho humanitario internacional], the only center its kind in Latin America. In a press conference, Francis Amar, the Red Cross International Committee's regional representative for Latin America and the Caribbean, and Hector Rodriguez Baster, second secretary of the Cuban Red Cross [title as heard], announced that an agreement has been signed to create a center for informing on and disseminating information about international humanitarian law, which is the law applied in order to protect victims of armed conflict and their property. Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Nicolas Rodriguez [title as heard] also participated.

Mr. Amar said this center could, in the future, serve as a regional institution and provide its academic services to other countries. He said the island is participating in the general effort to respect international humanitarian law and that, as one of the many obligations of the signers of the Geneva agreements, Cuba disseminates those principles through Red Cross and Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] specialists.

[Begin Amar recording] The Cuban FAR have cooperated greatly with us. They have been seen as an organization very interested in disseminating international humanitarian law. [end recording]

The [Red Cross] International Committee has given the Cuban Red Cross help not only through technical assistance but also through material assistance, such as, for example, the creation of a national telecommunications network for the ambulance service. The regional representative said the doors of cooperation are open to this Caribbean country.

Intersputnik Meeting Opens in Havana on 27 Oct

FL2810145093 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Cuban Communications Vice Minister Mercedes Carracedo opened the 22d session of the Intersputnik Council yesterday [27 October] at the Convention Center in Havana.

In her opening speech, Carracedo stated that the Latin American integration process requires that integrated communications systems be established and that these systems could be supplied by the Intersputnik satellite communications organization.

Attending the session are delegates and guests from 19 countries, mostly from Europe and Asia.

Justice Minister: Respect Sovereignty in Combating Drugs

FL2810134393 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Cuba has urged the international community to fight the illegal demand for drugs because it regards consumption as the driving force behind drug production and trafficking.

Speaking at a plenary session of a high-level UN meeting on drug enforcement, Cuban Justice Minister Carlos Amat Fores yesterday stated that a joint effort must be made to win the fight against drugs.

Amat noted, however, that a joint action against the drug trade must fully respect each country's sovereignty, irrespective of its size. He added that no powerful country must ever be allowed to use this fight as a pretext to acquire the right to dictate guidelines to, or to force its will upon, other countries.

Havana Speculates on Arms, Fuel Supply for UNITA

FL2810164193 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 28 Oct 93

["Our Opinion" commentary by Eduardo Dimas]

[Text] A little over a month ago I spoke to you about the sweet enchantment that Jonas Savimbi, leader of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA], exercises on the members of the UN Security Council. At that time, the Security Council had announced that if the war did not cease it would place an embargo of military and fuel supplies against that organization; that was precisely that what it did. It decreed an embargo that was not respected by any of those interested, which left the fighting capacity of UNITA undiminished.

I should make it clear that I am not trying to establish similiarities in the events, because they are different; but I will try to point out differing attitudes in the face of disregard of Security Council resolutions and the differing treatment given to those who do not comply.

Iraq, a nation with full international rights, was first blockaded effectively and later submitted to a devastating war because of its invasion of Kuwait. To this day, it is under the economic trust of the United Nations and it pays the consequences. Meanwhile, UNITA is an antinational guerrilla band allied to the worst African causes, except in its case there is a certain courtesy that did not exist in Iraq's case.

UNITA has disregarded all the resolutions of the UN Security Council, which instructed UNITA to cease the combat that is causing enormous losses among the civil population. While UNITA holds talks in Lusaka with UN mediators, it continues to bombard cities such as Malanje and peoples such as the (Ucuma) and (Longojo), in Benguela Province. In other words, UNITA agrees to negotiate; but, at the same time, it tries to consolidate its position so that in the event of unsuccessful negotiations it can divide the country, which conforms to the plans of the South African extreme Right and of multinational corporations interested in the mineral riches of Angola.

After approximately one month of an embargo on military supplies and fuel, which supposedly a clandestine guerrilla band would have to obtain clandestinely, UNITA maintains its fighting capacity and does not skimp on missiles or weapons in an attempt to reach its goals. This means that the United Nations' measures have not met their objective simply because those who should apply them have not done so. Can it be that South Africa and Zaire cannot be sanctioned, or is there someone much more important behind UNITA?

Negotiations in Lusaka are being held between UNITA and mediators from the United States, Russia, and Portugal, who must clear up the UNITA position with regard to the current war. The above-mentioned contacts, which are described by (Alium Blondin Belle), the general representative of the UN Secretary General, as the first steps for a possible reopening of the negotiation process, are taking place just days before the Security Council reanalyzes the grave Angolan situation. The Council is scheduled to meet on 31 October to take new international, more drastic measures against UNITA in case that organization continues to use its weapons and refuses to participate in the democratization process taking place in that country.

One way or another, an organization that is not in power and that has not been recognized by the United Nations is defying the resolutions of the Security Council and continuing its war against a legally constituted, internationally recognized government. Such a situation can occur only if UNITA has the support of very powerful nations and interests; probably the same ones who publicly condemn Savimbi and promote sanctions against his organization are generously supporting him behind the scenes.

It seems to me that the Angolan problem has become a case of credibility for the United Nations. Do you agree?

Commentator Views Haitian Crisis, Christopher's Remarks

FL2810164793 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Commentary by Orlando Contreras]

[Text] Despite the concessions made by ousted Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, it is still not possible to see the light at the end of the tunnel in the Haitian tragedy. Today [27 October], the Haitian congress was unable to convene because of a lack of quorum. It was thus unable to approve an amnesty law for the military and other laws—which had been virtually already negotiated—that would pave the way for Aristide's return to the country. A meeting scheduled for today between the weakened prime minister, Robert Malval, and Army Chief Raoul Cedras was not held either. The Haitian military and police leadership appear to be determined not to surrender the power they usurped 20 months ago until they are guaranteed full immunity.

During his visit to Latvia, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christoper departed from his agenda concerning some former Soviet republics to comment on the Haitian situation. Confirming something that is already well known, he said that it would be very difficult for Aristide to return to Haiti on 30 October, as was established in an agreement signed in July on Governors Island in New York. He also said—and this has greater political significance—that, in principle, his government would agree to the participation of Haitian opposition personalities in a new government.

It should be noted that the so-called Haitian opposition, which sustained a heavy blow in the Haitian presidential election in which Aristide obtained a landslide victory, consists largely of former aides of the Duvalier dynasty and of his police-military and paramilitary apparatus. This move would then mean not only making a concession, but creating a situation which in practice would make it extremely difficult for Aristide to govern the country.

State Department and National Security Council officials today held consultations in Washington. These meetings were kept so secret that it is not even known with whom the consultations were held.

Meanwhile, the blockade against Haiti continues and the ultimate victims of this coercive measure, led by Washington and endorsed by the UN Security Council, are the poorest residents of that impoverished country. The Haitian political-military crisis, which has been compounded by an air-naval blockade, remains unchanged. Most Haitians are being forced into growing misery and helplessness. This is the true consequence of the crisis and no major changes are envisaged for the next few days.

U.S. Accused of Prolonging Crisis

FL2910014293 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Commentary by Juan Marrero]

[Text] Pastoral letters and calls for love and dialogue are absent in the Haitian drama. Pope John Paul II received a petition for mediation from General Raoul Cedras, the head of the coup, who resists complying with the agreements established in the Governors Island accord to restore constitutional President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power. To date, the Vatican has remained silent. We do not know if this silence is because Cedras' card is too dangerous to play, since everyone knows of his ties with drug trafficking, or because Aristide is not favored by the Vatican. We must remember that the Vatican suspended him as a priest of the Selesian Order because of his participation in political activities.

In parenthetical reference to this, how can one understand Aristide's suspension on one hand, and on the other, that nothing happened to the 11 bishops who wrote a political document judging the Cuban situation, which is another form of political participation. On the contrary, they have received signs of encouragement from the Vatican.

Returning to the Haitian crisis: On 30 October, Aristide is supposed to return to Haiti. At this time, that is practically impossible. Cedras has neither relinquished power, nor were UN forces able to disembark to reorganize the police and the military as a condition of the reestablishment of democracy. Furthermore, terror has increased with the emergence of a modernized version of the Tonton Macuotes. All these considerations make it clear that the solution to the Haitian crisis will again be delayed.

This definitely corresponds with the wishes of the U.S. Government, as well as with the wishes of the hawks in the Pentagon, the Central Intelligence Agency, and Congress. This, of course, also serves the Haitian military which in the last two years, under Cedras' leadership, has turned Haiti into a sanctuary for drug traffickers and the newest route for smuggling drugs into the United States.

In this context, the U.S. policy toward Haiti rides on two rails. On one, they advocate a negotiated solution to the crisis and Aristide's return to power. Yet deep down, they are not displeased with delays because delays result in new opportunities to force Aristide to agree to further concessions, such as the formation of a government that includes some of the military involved in the coup.

On the other rail, and particularly following the failure of the military operation in Somalia, the United States implemented the naval blockade and froze the assets of the Haitian military in the United States as a show of strength against the coupists to appear as hardliners in the eyes of public opinion and to the most reactionary U.S. elements, which demand this.

The extension of the crisis is beneficial for both the hawks in Washington and the coupists themselves. It makes it possible for them to maintain the propaganda campaign against Aristide whom they constantly describe as mentally ill and a psychopath. The delays also give them a better opportunity to prevent UN troops from being the ones who get to reorganize the Haitian Army and police, as well as more time to try and convince American public opinion that in case the

impasse caused by Cedras cannot be resolved, the solution will be an invasion by U.S. troops. The goals of this, and they say so, is that any change in the Haitian military structure will be by the hand of the Pentagon instead of by the United Nations, since the Pentagon is the father of this creature.

Either way, all these elements are acting deliberately to delay a solution to the crisis. None of them, of course, are interested in the wellbeing of the Haitian population, victims of terror, oppression, hunger, and misery.

St. Martin Governor, Delegation Visit Havana

FL2810165593 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Albert Fleming, governor of the Caribbean island of St. Martin, has just arrived in our country at the invitation of the government of Havana City. The governor is accompanied by a delegation of 45 people and a representation of businessmen, who will participate in the Havana International Fair, which will open on 31 October.

Jesus Montene Oropesa, assistant to our commander in chief and a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, and Rogelio Milian, vice president of the provincial people's government, met Fleming at the airport.

Matanzas Completing Oil Development Program Projects

FL2910005993 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2038 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] The workers of the Fourth Party Congress and Julio Antonio Mella contingents of the Ministry of Construction in Matanzas are completing details of important objectives of the province's oil development program. Among the works to be completed during the current month are pump and boiler housing, an oil collection center, and the plant for emulsifying oil from Varadero [planta de varaemulsion], which permits us to use emulsified Cuban oil on an industrial scale, in cement factories and thermoelectric power plants.

Matanzas construction workers are also putting the final touches on a 1,265-meter oil pipeline that, because it is linked to the batteries [not further identified], collection centers, and auxiliary pumping stations, makes it possible to move the oil to the port of Cardenas. Oil development in Matanzas also encompasses excavations, as well as the building of platforms and oil collection centers.

Standing Committee Studies ANPP Draft Bill

FL2910010093 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2055 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] In order to learn the various deputies' points of view, the Standing Committee for Constitutional and Legal Affairs of the National Assembly [of the People's Government, ANPP] is examining the first version of the draft bill on the organization and operations of the ANPP, the nation's highest body. ANPP President Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada is attending the ongoing meeting, which is being presided over by Dr. (Ramon de la Cruz Ochoa) and at which Professor (Julio Fernandez Bulte) gave a speech on the draft bill.

At this meeting, the deputies are stating their views, with the goal of perfecting the work of the National Assembly so that it can satisfactorily fulfill the role conferred on it by Articles 69 and 70 of the Constitution of the Republic, as the supreme body and the only body with constituent and legislative authority. The document under discussion is intended to render the National Assembly more viable, and to guarantee the constitutionality of (?its) bodies.

This meeting underway in Havana will continue its work tomorrow, analyzing the way crime is being tackled. The representatives of Minint [Ministry of Interior], the Justice Ministry, the Supreme People's Tribunal, the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, and collective law offices, will report on their work in connection with the crime situation and will answer questions from the deputies.

The program also provides for special speeches by Deputies Cintio Vitier, the Reverend Raul Suarez, and the Rev. Sergio Arce, who will give their opinions on the matter. Specialists from the Central Planning Board's Institute for Economic Research, as well as professors and researchers from the University of Havana in the legal fields of criminology and economics, will also speak at the meeting.

Castro Meets With Eugenio Malandri, Alvaro Cunhal

FL2910014593 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Report on Castro meetings with European Parliamentarian Eugenio Malandri and with Alvaro Cunhal, Secretary General of the Portuguese Communist Party. Cunhal comments in Portuguese with superimposed translation into Spanish; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro met with Italian Deputy Eugenio Malandri, a member of the European Parliament, with whom he exchanged views on various topics of common interest during an extensive, friendly conversation. Malandri, who submitted a report on the U.S. blockade to the European Parliament, is visiting Cuba at the invitation of the National Assembly of the People's Government. During his visit, Malandri has met with leaders of the party, state, and Government of Cuba.

Castro also met with comrade Alvaro Cunhal, secretary general of the Portuguese Communist Party [PCP].

During the meeting, Cunhal reaffirmed the Portuguese communists' solidarity with and support for the struggle of the Cuban people. The two leaders engaged in a productive exchange of views on the situations in Cuba and Portugal, as well as on other international issues.

Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina this morning also met with Cunhal, who emphasized the significance of this visit which has enabled him to get a firsthand impression of the Cuban situation and the consequences of the blockade. In his meeting with Robaina, Cunhal commented on the Portuguese solidarity movement with the Cuban Revolution:

"Regarding solidarity with Cuba, we can say that there are two complementary trends in Portugal. One is a solidarity movement with a popular, democratic character, of the most diverse organizations: friendship associations, union movements, women and youth groups. All these exhibit solidarity toward Cuba. On the other hand, it is necessary to try to influence the government and its bodies and institutions to modify their position toward Cuba."

Cunhal also stressed the solidarity within the parliament:

"Recently, a friendship group was created in the Parliament. This was the first step taken to modify the situation in those institutions. We therefore believe it is a current trend, such as happened in the European Parliament. The PCP has deputies in the European Parliament who contributed initiatives that resulted in the approval of a document condemning the Torricelli Law."

Cunhal affirmed that the PCP continues the struggle despite difficulties because they are sustained by the example of heroism and combativeness of the Cuban people.

CECE President on 'Positive' Chilean Business Contacts

FL2910025893 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] On 28 October, Ernesto Melendez, minister president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation [CECE], described as successful his multiple contacts with Chilean businessmen to promote joint enterprises and productions. In describing the result of the "Cuban Business Opportunities" seminar held in Santiago de Chile, Melendez stated that it was very positive because over 120 representatives of relevant companies [participated]. Melendez pointed out that despite the U.S. blockade, there is clear and growing interest among the Chilean businessmen to do business with Cuba.

UN Diplomat Criticizes Security Council Annual Report

FL2910030893 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Cuba today urged improvement of the content of the UN Security Council's annual report to the UN General Assembly so that the General Assembly can carry out its responsibilities properly and effectively. Fernando Remirez de Estenoz, Cuban ambassador to the United Nations, expressed this opinion during the course of the Assembly's plenary session on the subject of the Security Council's report.

The Cuban diplomat said: In its current form, that document might be useful in libraries or reference centers, but not to the delegations which, in compliance with the UN charter, need to issue a value judgement on the decisions the Security Council is making in our name.

Remirez de Estenoz also said: We have noticed that on this occasion there have been a certain number of positive changes, thanks to the efforts of certain of its [not further identified] members; however, an analysis allowing one to evaluate what that body has done or failed to do continues to be completely absent from the report.

Remirez also stressed that this view joins growing demands in favor of greater openness in the Security Council's work, having taken into account existing practices and the closed and secret nature of a majority of its deliberations—something which makes a complete, full, analytical report increasingly necessary. He also pointed out other elements that should be evaluated by the General Assembly because, explained Remirez, the Security Council frequently tends to arrogate to itself many aspects of the work of the United Nations that in reality are not part of the authority conferred on it by the UN charter.

Rizo Chairs Creation of Camaguey Veterans Association

FL2910030993 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish GMT 93

[Text] This 28 October, the people of Camaguey observed the 34th anniversary of Camilo's disappearance. This significant date was selected to create Camaguey's Veterans Association. The event began with a message from Politburo member and Revolution Commander Juan Almeida Bosque. Politburo member Julian Rizo, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba in Camaguey, chaired the meeting together with Central Committee member and Revolution Commander Ramiro Valdez.

The need to persevere in the fight against crime and social undiscipline was stressed during the debates, as well as the strengthening of the population's patriotic and internationalist education, particularly among the youth and children.

The ceremony, held in the country club next to the historic monument to the unknown freedom fighter, was attended by 202 delegates in representation of the over 23,000-strong membership. The delegates elected

Colonel Rafael Victoria Guerra as president of the executive committee, and 18 delegates to the National Veterans Conference.

Robaina Stresses 'Fluid Exchange With Cubans Abroad'

FL2910032093 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Robaina explained the main features of Cuba's foreign policy to Cunhal and pointed out that Cuba is conducting a process of adapting to the present world without relinquishing its sovereignty and the basic principles of the Revolution. Robaina also stressed that there should be a fluid exchange with Cubans abroad who are not part of the biased sectors, who want ties with Cuba, and who reject the blockade. [passage omitted]

Barbados

Finance Minister Plans To Stimulate Export Manufacturing

FL2810180693 Bridgetown CANA in English 1747 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, 28 Oct, CANA—Barbados is planning to pursue a five-year trade reform programme aimed at reducing, or removing, the tax burden borne by local manufacturers to stimulate manufacturing growth, Finance Minister David Thompson said.

Addressing a Barbados' Manufacturers Association (BMA) luncheon on Wednesday, Thompson told manufacturers the programme would seek to increase the competitiveness of manufacturing, which has suffered a steep decline in recent years.

"The central policy thrust of the reforms is to eliminate the anti-export bias currently existing in our indirect tax system, to provide incentives for export-oriented manufacturing, and for the development of efficient import substitutes.

"The reforms should also permit export-oriented manufacturing companies to be in a much better position to capitalise on export opportunities. We are already seeing more of this," Thompson said.

In the first year of the programme, "import bans and quantitative restrictions are expected to be eliminated, as well as the introduction of a surcharge of equivalent, or near-equivalent, effect on all items subject to non-tariff barriers," Thompson said.

This measure, he added, is intended to provide a certain degree of protection to local production against competing imported goods.

Thompson warned, however, that the proposed reforms will affect all sectors of the economy, and they will be, in some cases, very unpopular in the short term.

"Understandably, their beneficial effects will emerge over the medium to long term. Most of these reforms will have some negative impact on existing inefficient import-substituting enterprises."

"Some firms with limited financial resources, poor management and production skills, as well as outdated production structures, will go under. I wish it were otherwise, but some laws are immutable."

He added: "While it is impossible to give a precise forecast and time horizon, the net effect in the long run should be a dynamic and vibrant manufacturing sector that is competitive and less susceptible to the disruptions in the Caricom market and beyond."

Thompson said the trade reform programme was necessary to restructure Barbados' productive sector and its success would depend on the ability and willingness of entrepreneurs to not only become more efficient, but to shift to new product lines and other markets. He called on entrepreneurs, managers and their staff "to re-tool and equip themselves to meet these new and major challenges."

Haiti

Aristide Terms CIA Mental Health Report 'Trash'

PA2810200293 Paris AFP in Spanish 1513 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] New York, 28 Oct (AFP)—Jean-Bertrand Aristide, Haitian president in exile, this Thursday criticized implicitly the CIA role in his country, stating that "those who support coupists are on their side."

"In the context of the new world order, I think it would be in everyone's best interest to work for peace, peace for all, and to support those struggling for peace, not those killing peace," Aristide said.

The president, who was overthrown by the Army in September 1991, answered questions on his perception of the CIA's role in Haiti in a news conference following his speech before the UN General Assembly in New York.

Last week a CIA report to Congress caused a great deal of controversy in the United States. The aforementioned intelligence agency questioned Aristide's mental health and said the Haitian president had received treatment for psychological problems.

Father Aristide termed such reports "trash." U.S. President Bill Clinton then reaffirmed his support for the president of the Haiti.

Aristide Calls for Total Blockade, Cedras' Departure

PA2810201593 Paris AFP in Spanish 1813 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] New York, 28 Oct (AFP)—Deposed Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide today asked the United Nations to impose a total blockade against his country to force the departure of senior military officers before his return to Haiti.

"We will have a better chance of arriving at a solution if additional sanctions are imposed," Aristide told a news conference after addressing the UN General Assembly.

"The military officers will only leave if they face the inescapable consequences of the sanctions," he added.

In order to enforce respect for the "total and comprehensive blockade" he demanded from the UN forum, Aristide said he wants an "air blockade" to be added to the naval measures established last week to control the petroleum and arms embargo.

Asked about his return to Port-au-Prince on 30 October, as was established in the Governors Island agreement, Aristide indicated that "what is at stake is the security of all Haitians without distinction, a security that depends on the professionalization of our Army and the creation of a new police force, because the president can only be secure if there is security for everyone."

Aristide is now demanding that before the legislature is convened to approve a law granting amnesty to the officers who staged the coup d'etat in 1991 and another to separate the Army and police, Army Chief General Raoul Cedras, "the members of the command and staff," as well as Police Chief Joseph Michel Francois "and his allies" must depart.

According to a western diplomat at the United Nations, Aristide seems "to be placing the cart before the horse" by setting these conditions before the two laws are voted on by the Haitian legislature. It is doubtful that the military men will decide to leave before an amnesty law to protect them is approved, the diplomat added.

Argentine Dante Caputo, the UN mediator in Haiti, implicitly rejected on Thursday in Port-au-Prince the "conditions" presented by deposed Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to return to the country. Caputo asserted that the international community "can only be guided" by the Governors Island agreement.

Caputo's statements, which were read by his spokesman Eric Falts, indicate that "regarding the propositions and conditions presented by Aristide to return to the country, I must point out that the international community can only be guided by the series of measures stipulated in the agreements" of Governors Island.

In his speech at the United Nations, Aristide also asked his prime minister, Robert Malval, to continue in his post "in solidarity with the Haitian people."

Malval had threatened to quit if the president did not return to Haiti on Saturday, as was stipulated in the agreement signed in June. However, after Aristide's intervention, the Prime Minister announced that he would follow the President's "directions."

A total commercial embargo against Haiti could be decreed next week by the UN Security Council, said the French diplomats who prepared the proposed resolution.

Aristide said he was willing to promote a national reconciliation but excluded the inclusion of "criminal elements" in his government.

Prime Minister To Remain in Post Beyond 30 Oct

PA2810202093 Paris AFP in Spanish 1821 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 28 Oct (AFP)—Haitian Prime Minister Robert Malval has accepted remaining in his post beyond 30 October, as requested this morning by President Jean-Bertrand Aristide from the UN podium, Emile Jean-Baptiste, spokesman for Malval, has announced.

Malval decided to follow "the order of the president," Jean-Baptiste told AFP, adding that the prime minister will travel next week to meet with Aristide to "redesign a strategy." Aristide is living in exile in the United States.

Asked if Malval, whose discouragement became more perceptible these days, had decided on a deadline for abandoning his post, which he has occupied since 2 September, Jean-Baptiste stated that the issue of deadlines will be discussed at the meeting with Aristide.

A source close to Malval told AFP this morning that, given that the 30 October deadline for Aristide's return could not be met, the prime minister wished that the international community would offer guarantees on the duration of the process.

Meanwhile, Malval described as "a step forward" the proposal made by Aristide so that "the most recriminated soldiers leave," according to the spokesman. He was referring to Aristide's request for the departure of General Raoul Cedras, the Army chief, but also of the men "of the High Command and the Army Staff."

[Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French at 1800 GMT on 28 October provides Malval's statement: "In solidarity with the Haitian people and the cause of democracy we are serving, I will remain in office until we reach an agreement that is satifactory to all parties—I hope, very quickly."]

Caputo Rejects Aristide Conditions for Vote on Laws

FL2810212693 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1800 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] The following statement by President Aristide should be noted: If General Cedras, the members of the

Army high command, of the high General Staff, and Colonel [Joseph] Michel Francois as well as his allies step down tomorrow, I will convene the parliament, together with the presidents of the two chambers, on the same day, for the vote of law on the police and on that relating to amnesty.

The conditions set down by Aristide have been implicitly rejected by Dante Caputo who asserted that the international community can confine itself only to the Governors Island Agreement. Caputo's statement, read by his spokesman Eric Falt, clearly refers—even though it does not precisely say so—to the request made by Aristide in his speech at the tribune of the United States for the departure not only of Gen. Raoul Cedras, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, but also of the members of the high command, the high General Staff, and [Lieutenant] Colonel Michel Francois, Port-au-Prince police chief.

Reasons Offered for Failure of Chamber Session

FL2810222593 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Report by Daly Valet in Creole—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Valet] On 27 October, the empty-seat policy was even worse in the Chamber of Deputies. The latest roll call revealed that about 30 deputies were present. Due to the lack of a quorum, Dr. Antoine Joseph, president of the Chamber of Deputies, decided to postpone the session to 28 October. Present were 11 socialist deputies, 17 Alliance [for Parliamentary Cohesion] deputies, and nine National Front for Change and Democracy Parliamentary Bloc [BP-FNCD] deputies. The causes of the session's failure were the absence of several FNCD parliamentarians, and the security risk. In view of the question of this empty-seat policy, Deputy Frantz Robert Monde asked the office of the Chamber to take measures against it, such as publishing the names of the parliamentarians involved in the empty-seat policy. [passage omitted]

If the security problem is at the root of the failure of the sessions, there are other reasons as well, according to Deputy Saurel Jacinthe. The socialist deputy said the fuel problem and the new convening order, which has not yet been published by the president, were the main causes preventing the holding of sessions in parliament. [passage omitted]

The rumors circulating about Prime Minister Robert Malval's resignation have also immobilized parliamentarians close to the FNCD. (Fritz Robert Saint-Paultre), first secretary of the office of the Chamber of Deputies, provides details on that score.

[Saint-Paultre] Until now, many deputies are not yet... [changes thought] worry about the safety of the FNCD. Furthermore, it is rumored that the prime minister has resigned. Finally, many deputies say they do not have... [changes thought] if it is true, their presence is no longer important in parliament. I think that on the whole, these are the reasons.

[Valet] Antoinier Clerval, second secretary of the Chamber of Deputies, says the deputies, who speak of insecurity, are the very ones who have created insecurity. Deputy Clerval, a former officer in the Haitian Army, says it is not normal for deputies to aim pointed remarks, criticisms, at the Haitian Army. If they do so, they should accept the consequences, according to Deputy Clerval. [passage omitted]

The president of the Chamber of Deputies did not wish to make any statements following the failure of the 27 October session. The extraordinary session has virtually failed, and the 48-hour deadline set by the Crisis Committee for the vote of the laws on the separation of the Army and police, and on amnesty has been missed through stall tactics, while nothing concrete has been decided. Will there be stall tactics today, 28 October? We will wait and see. Daly Valet for Signal FM.

Aristide Addresses UN General Assembly

FL2810225793 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1435 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Speech by Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to the UN General Assembly in New York on 28 October—live]

[Text] Mr. president, Mr. secretary general, distinguished diplomats, dear friends, I am happy to greet you on behalf of the people of Haiti. Together with Prime Minister Malval, and the Haitian ministers and diplomats present here, may I express my thanks to the United Nations and all those who are with us as we move toward the restoration of democracy in Haiti.

I would particularly like to thank the secretary general of the United Nations, the OAS secretary general, President Bill Clinton, the special envoys, Mr. Dante Caputo, Ambassador Lawrence Pezzullo, and the four friendly countries: Canada, France, Venezuela, and the United States.

I could never forget all the other friends who are so dear to our heart: those in the Caribbean, in America, in Europe, and in Asia, who have given us such a warmhearted welcome. We are thinking specifically of the Republic of China, Taiwan, which we hope will regain its place in the great family of the United Nations.

Mr. president, in 1492, the people of Africa reached the new world. Already, half a millennium has elapsed, 500 years of history in which we saw the burgeoning of the seeds of culture and liberation.

From 1791 to 1804, with the encouragement of Toussaint Louverture and Jean-Jacques Dessalines, Haiti won its independence and the sap of liberty became the blood of our blood and the flesh of our flesh.

We live. Haiti will live. Haiti is us. We are Haiti. Undoubtedly there have been ups and downs, and there will continue to be. Nevertheless, nothing can prevent us from defending our inalienable and undeniable rights to life, to liberty, and to the pursuit of happiness in accordance with our act of independence of 1804 and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.

It is with great joy that we find the same fundamental values set forth in the American Declaration of Independence, namely: "All men are created equal. The Creator has endowed them with certain inalienable rights, including the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Haiti, the richest French colony in the 18th century, must be a nation which is socially just, economically free, and politically independent. When political science, as a separate professional discipline, focused its attention on the state, it gave us some rather rational guidelines for building a state of law. Over and above political storms, in our country we will establish a stable state, based and built on the law.

Democratic restoration implies ideological pluralism, political change, economic growth. The scientific mainlines of this process, let us repeat, involve a political equation to be drawn between reconciliation and justice, reconciliation among all and justice for all.

What is at stake is peace—at the national level, in the hemisphere, and in the world. We cannot sketch out the main outlines of the New World Order without necessarily involving democracy. Democracy and nonviolence are ineluctably connected. Democracy and institutionalized violence are incompatible. Haiti is now suffering from structural and age-old violence.

The coup d'etat brought about a genuine genocide. In legal terminology, the assassination of a people can be called only one thing, and that is genocide. The purpose is to exterminate in order to dominate, to dominate in order to do away with the democratic process and to replace it with neocolonialism.

If slavery is not bad, nothing is bad, said Abraham Lincoln in 1864. Likewise, we saw Petion, the president of the Republic of Haiti, welcome Bolivar, who had at that time been vanquished by the troops of Ferdinand VII. He provided them asylum and assistance to do away with slavery in Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, and Peru.

Today, as at Crete—Pierrot, Dessalines heroically restated: "We will all die for freedom." Captain Fritz Pierre-Louis died for freedom and democracy. Our brother Antoine Izmery died for freedom and democracy. Our brother Guy Malary, minister of justice, laid down his life for freedom and democracy. More than 4,000 Haitians have died for freedom and democracy. May they all rest in peace.

This institutionalized violence prevents the free exercise of the human rights that are formally guaranteed by the Constitution. Fortunately, by restoring democracy, we intend to promote the flowering of Haitian creativity and the transformation of living conditions.

Slowly but surely, we will pass through destitution, through poverty, to dignity. Six million nine hundred thousand compatriots, 2 million of whom live in the urban area, and 4,900,000 in rural areas, will weep the harvest of peace and joy. The quality of life will be better. The infant mortality rate will no longer be 94 in every 1,000. Unemployment will no longer waver between 70 and 90 percent. The 90 percent of the urban population will no longer live in shantytowns. We will no longer have one soldier per 1,000 inhabitants and 1.8 doctors per 10,000 inhabitants; we will no longer have an army of 7,000 people, absorbing 40 percent of the national budget. The quality of life will be better.

It is our hope that the technical assistance we have requested from the United Nations will make it possible to at least professionalize the Army. I would like to take this occasion to send a message of peace to the officers, the warrant officers, and the soldiers of the Army of Haiti. As a guarantee of national independence and territorial integrity, the president of the Republic will recall that the Armed Forces are nonpolitical, according to Article 265 of the Constitution. The police force was created to maintain public order and to protect the lives and properties of citizens, Article 269.

On 15 October of this year, the Armed Forces and the police should have finally liberated themselves from those in charge of them—late but not too late. They would have had to leave. This flagrant violation of the Governors Island agreement can only dramatically accelerate the headlong course to national breakdown. Late but not too late, they have to leave.

The end of the Cold War has sounded the knell of dictatorship and has opened the path to responsible negotiation.No human being can live in a ridiculous, chaotic world. We must build a state of law, ensuring the separation and harmonious distribution of state authorities, to serve the fundamental interests of the nation at large. In this context, we deem it fit to recall the six proposals shared last July with the private sector in Haiti.

Once we have returned, what we will do is :

1. Take effective steps on the meso-economic level, measures that will establish a relationship between the macro- and micro-economic planes, which have a direct impact on the daily life of the people, and which would lead to a necessary degree of decentralization.

2. Set in motion a legal process for the rational management of state resources, for both budgetary readjustment and to reform the tax and banking systems.

3. Create a state of law where there would be a judicious economic policy encouraging the creation of productive, remunerative jobs.

4. Revamp the synergistic relationships between the public and private sectors.

5. Correct market deficiencies by combatting drug [trafficking], corruption, and smuggling.

6. Make it possible for the market to function properly by ensuring free competition.

In this connection, Article 245 of the Constitution states:

"That economic freedom is guaranteed so long as it is not opposed to social interests. The state protects private entreprise and does everything to ensure that it develops under the necessary conditions to increase national wealth in order to ensure the participation of the largest number in the benefit of that wealth."

Dear friends, James, in "The Black Jacobins," wrote that no part of the world, so far as surface is concerned, has so much wealth as the colony of Saint-Domingue. It is quite true. It is also true today that Haiti is one of the wealthiest pieces of land in the world; it is rich in human, cultural, and artistic values. [Creole] We are so good that we become sweet inside the violence machine. What a good people! It is as good as it smells!

In the year 2,000, the most realistic projections have already indicated that 2,600,000 inhabitants—that is, 65 percent of the urban population—will no longer have easy access to drinking water.

The implementation of our economic policy should avoid this catastrophe. In the year 2,000, more than 60 percent of the children under the age of 12 months will not be vaccinated properly, another challenge to be met.

In seven years, our forests will have disappeared. Two years ago, we had only 1.5 percent forest covering. This is why every year, we are losing 36.6 million metric tons of land. Only by restoring democracy, can we protect our country against this ecological catastrophe. This is not even to mention the massive flow of boat people. Once we have returned to our native land, we will reestablish peace. Thus our land and our flesh will no longer be going out to sea. There will no longer be any boat people. As we said, there will no longer be any boat people. [repeats] We continue to say, after we have returned, there will no longer be any licensed drug dealing. We will say it again: Only by restoring democracy can we prevent Haiti from becoming second on the list of countries in the hemisphere involved in drug dealing.

Every year, since the coup d'etat, approximately 48 metric tons of cocaine transit through Haiti. Their destination? North America, in particular. The market value of this drug per year totals $1.2 billion dollars U.S., of which more than $200 million dollars goes to serve the cause of the coupists and their allies.

When we return to our native land, the Haitian and U.S. Governments, united as they have always been, will protect themselves against this violent scourge.

When we return to our native land, the mobilization of all our human resources and the optimum utilization of the assistance afforded by countries friendly to us, will enable us to implement an emergency employment program. This implies:

1. Rehabilitating the roadways, 1,406 km of roads.

2. Protecting the drinking water supply system for 1 million inhabitants.

3. Protecting the agricultural irrigation system covering 200,000 plots of land.

4. Improving the main towns and the zones threatened by erosion, including 300 km of ravines, in particular.

5. Promoting integrated rural development.

Let us recall that the rural area employs 63 percent of the active population and represents 27 percent of the Gross National Product [GNP]. The industrial sector, on the other hand, employs 5.7 percent of the active population and represents only 15 percent of the GNP. Together with the private sector in Haiti, we will need to find the best way to provide both medium- and long-term jobs, and many of them.

Since the coup d'etat, we have lost approximately 30,000 jobs in those industries which serve the export sector. Relaunching the tourist sector will be a source of thousands of jobs. Constructing schools and repairing 1,200 schools in marginalized areas will contribute to reducing the number of unemployed.

The first responsibility of the state and the territorial collectives is mass literacy and mass school attendance, which is the only thing that will make it possible to develop the country. The state and the territorial collectives should make school available, free, to all: Articles 32.1 and 32.2.

Likewise, the guarantor of respect for the constitution, the chief of state, will do everything he can to strengthen democratic institutions set forth in the constitution: Justice for all. Transparency in everything. Participation by everyone. The head of state will also reinforce the independence of the legislative power by helping legislators prepare themselves, and by ensuring harmonious relationships between the two branches. There will need to be a permanent electoral council quickly, which will organize legislative elections for 1994.

I take this opportunity to encourage the political parties and the members of the opposition to activate the democratic game for the happiness of the nation.

As president of each and every Haitian, I encourage all of you to build up unity in diversity beyond political differences.

Young people of Haiti, women of Haiti, peasants organizations, trade unions, people's organizations, and socioprofessional organizations, let us all go in hand in hand, let us all including the rich, the poor, the military, civilians, say again no to vengeance, no to violence, no to impunity, yes to reconciliation, and yes to justice. Let us all go hand in hand. Unity makes strength. [Changes to Creole] The fork of division cannot drink the soup of democracy.

[In French] The evolution of geopolitics depends on unity. On the threshold of a new era, tolerance and active benevolence are profitable to all mankind. The evolution of geopolitics depends on both the relations of the economic forces and the democratic growth. Yes, a new world order based on mutual respect and new structures aimed at guaranteeing peace, security, and dialogue—dialogue between men and women placed at the top of the national and international priorities, dialogue between men and women whose intelligence orientates the democratic civilization, dialogue between all of us, dialogue between you who are intelligent—can arise from mankind.

Intelligence without force collapses under its own weight, Horace cried out. Guided by the light of this intelligence, Haitian men and women will easily understand that [changes to Creole] we have taken appointment [for meeting] in our homeland, they will easily understand that our homeland is our homeland. The [two] years we have spent away from home have not killed us, neither will the few days remaining away from home kill us [ane pa tiye-n, jou pa ka touye-n] because our home is our home. We have taken the appointment to meet at home and we say: Cheer up to all compatriots who are experiencing hardships at home. Cheer up, compatriots who want to be back home. We have taken the appointment [to see you] at home.

[In French] Yes, we Haitian men and women, who want peace and will make peace, easily understand the importance of this reconciliation and justice. This is why:

1. We have begun respecting the Governors Island Agreement.

2. We ask for a total and complete blockade which proves to be necessary and even essential.

3. If General Cedras, the members of the [Army] high command and the high general staff, and [Lieutenant] Colonel [Joseph] Michel Francois as well as his allies step down tomorrow morning, I will convene the parliament together with the presidents of the Senate and of the Chamber of Deputies the same afternoon for the vote on the law on the police and that relating to an amnesty in compliance with Article 147 of the Constitution, the Governors Island Agreement, and the New York Pact;

4. The prime minister and the members of the ministerial cabinet to whom we offer our keen congratulations are invited not to resign as a sign of solidarity with the Haitian people; 30 October is not oscillating between the return and the nonreturn. 30 October is oscillating between departure and delay. [Changes to Creole] The ball, the return ball is at the feet of all of us. Make it roll on the mobilization field, and send it into the back of the democracy net because we have had enough. Everything has an end.

[In French] Haitian men and women, the horizons of the future are open! Standing up like the cabbage tree of freedom, let us go hand in hand, let us build peace, let us build the law, let us restore democracy. Let us all—sons and daughters of the homeland of Toussaint Louverture and Jean-Jacques Dessalines—unite for the rebirth of the nation. Peace, love, and happiness to all of you! May an avalanche reconciliation and an avalanche of justice flood all of us. Alone, we are weak; together, we are strong; and together and together, we are an avalanche. Thank you. [applause]

Malval Reacts to Speech

FL2910000193 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] President Aristide asked Prime Minister Malval to remain in office. The same request was made on 27 October by the United Nations, and this morning by the American Embassy spokesman in Port-au-Prince, Mr. Stanley Shrager. We now have the prime minister's reactions:

[Begin recording] [Reporter Clarens Renois] The prime minister reacted to the speech by President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. There are, however, some agreements and some disagreements in the prime minister's words, if I interpret them correctly.

First of all, the prime minister agrees to the request by President Aristide that he remain in his post. He said: If the president asks me to stay, I stay for the cause of democracy and to fight for the Haitian people. I will remain in office, said Prime Minister Robert Malval, who was answering the questions of Haitian and foreign journalists, who were at his residence this morning to get his reaction directly following the speech.

Regarding the sanctions, regarding the new conditions set down or proposals made by President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, regarding the Governors Island agreement, and the resignation of some military, the prime minister thinks that within the next 48 hours, other negotiations should be held with the Army General Staff.

About the sanctions, the comprehensive embargo requested by President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, it seems to me, and I say it seems to me, that the prime minister has some reservations. He explained that to his knowledge, a complete embargo has never before been ordered against a country. It will be necessary to see how the Security Council responds to President Aristide's request before weighing the consequences. He explained in a spontaneous reaction—he said it himself—that sanctions, or a complete embargo against Haiti will have very serious consequences to the country.

He believes that today more than ever, reconciliation is necessary, obligatory, and even inevitable in order to save the country. We are offering you an excerpt of the statements he made to the press:

[Malval] I am confirming what I have always said. In principle, I was planning to leave on 30 October if the president did not return to the country, unless he asked me to continue to serve. In solidarity with the Haitian people and for the cause of democracy we are serving, I will remain in office until we reach an agreement that is satisfactory to all parties—and I hope very quickly. There are some new proposals on the table. We listened to the speech. I hope that all of us Haitians, within the framework of the national reconciliation we have been advocating since 2 September, reach an agreement acceptable to everyone.

[Renois] Will you remain within the framework of the Governors Island agreement?

[Malval] That was the meaning of my question from the start. As long as the main protagonists think that the agreement is still alive, my mission continues. It is within the framework of the agreement that I continue to exercise my mission.

[Renois] Mr. Prime Minister, do you agree with the president when he asks for a total, comprehensive embargo? Do you think that further sanctions on Haiti will help solve the problem?

[Malval] It is necessary to see all the immediate consequences it could have. Such general sanctions have never been enacted before. At lease, I am not aware of any prior ones. Therefore, I cannot determine the immediate effects of such sanctions. But it is true,—one must say it; you know I speak spontaneously of what is on my mind—it is true that a total blockade will be a heavy burden on the country.

[Renois] Have you planned other meetings—I mean, are you planning other negotiations, other talks and discussions with the Haitian military?

[Malval] We are always open. We do not currently have anything precise on our agenda. However, most certainly during those 24 or 48 hours, one should expect that a meeting will be held. [end recording]

Cedras Rejects Aristide's Conditions for Return

PA2910145493 Paris AFP in Spanish 1340 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 29 Oct (AFP) — On the night of 28 October, General Raoul Cedras, Haitian Army chief, rejected and described as "unconstitutional" the new conditions imposed by President Jean-Bertrand Aristide for his return to Haiti.

In a statement broadcast by Radio Liberte after a meeting with the High Command, Gen. Cedras said the conditions are tantamount to "violating the country's Constitution."

In a speech before the UN General Assembly, President Aristide conditioned the legislature's vote on an amnesty law not only to Gen. Cedras' departure but also to that of the Army General Staff and the High Command, as well as of Colonel Joseph Michel Francois, Port-au-Prince Police Commander, and "all his allies."

The Armed Forces members "not only want an amnesty for the Army," but "a general amnesty for society," Cedras said.

The Netherlands Antilles

Government Resigns, Convenes Elections for 25 Feb

PA2810141793 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1307 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] The Hague, 28 Oct (EFE)— The Netherlands Antillean Government headed by Maria Liberia-Peters resigned early this morning and convened elections for 25 February, the Dutch news agency ANP reported from its capital, Willemstad, today.

The coalition in power was dissolved when one of the coalition parties, the Patriotic Union of Bonaire (UPD), abandoned the government saying that it did not satisfy the needs of the Netherlands Antillean electorate and making it lose its parliamentary majority.

ANP stated that the summit to be held by the Netherlands with its overseas colonies, scheduled for late 1993, could be suspended because of the government's resignation.

The plebiscite to determine the future of Curacao will still be held on 19 November as planned, however.

The islands of Curacao, Bonaire, St. Maarten, Saba, and St. Eustatius in the Caribbean form part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, which is not the case with Aruba, as it maintains a separate status with The Hague.

Trinidad and Tobago

State Loses Appeal of Jamaat Al Muslimeen Amnesty Ruling

FL2810181593 Bridgetown CANA in English 1803 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, 28 Oct, CANA—The Trinidad and Tobago Government on Thursday lost an appeal that sought to overturn a high court ruling that a presidential amnesty granted to persons involved in a 1990 coup attempt here, was valid.

The Appeal Court, by a majority decision, upheld the ruling by Justice Clebert Brooks that resulted in freedom last year for 114 members of the Jamaat Al Muslimeen, who faced murder, treason, kidnapping and other charges arising from the failed attempt to topple the former ANR Robinson government.

Costa Rica

U.S. Ship Given Permission To Dock Amid Some Opposition

PA2810132593 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1935 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] San Jose, 27 Oct (NOTIMEX)—The Costa Rican Legislative Assembly authorized the docking of the U.S. warship Belknap in Puerto Caldera in the Pacific Ocean next week, it was officially reported on 27 October. The Costa Rican Congress described the visit as humanitarian and part of U.S. cooperation.

Local security sources said the crew members and officers arriving in the military vessel will disembark and tour the port for several hours to deliver clothes to poor families.

Leftist Legislator Rodrigo Gutierrez of the Democratic Force Party agreed with progovernment deputies Gerardo Bolanos and Luis Villalobos, who were opposed to granting the Belknap authorization to dock. The opposed congressmen described the arrival of the U.S. vessel in Costa Rica on 1 November as "an act of arrogance." Their criticism is based on the fact that Washington has threatened Costa Rica with the suspension of benefits it receives through the General Preference System due to an alleged lack of labor rights in that country. Should that threat become a reality, 225,000 workers will be unemployed because several companies would be forced to close if required to pay duties on products they export to the U.S. market.

President Gaviria Promotes Trade Agreement in Costa Rica

PA2810170493 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Oct 93

[From the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] President Cesar Gaviria traveled to Costa Rica on 25 October to promote trade agreements with that country. He will also visit Honduras.

President Gaviria arrived in Costa Rica with a tight agenda to promote the signing of a trade agreement between Central America and the G-3 [Group of Three]—Colombia, Venezuela, and Mexico—before the end of the year.

[Begin Gaviria recording] We have come to promote business development and joint investments and to express Colombian businessmen's faith in Costa Rica, which is a privileged country because of its long democratic tradition. [end recording]

The free trade agreement between Central America and the G-3 will eliminate customs duties for approximately 80 million consumers. In the Colombian-Costa Rican meeting, the participants also discussed Colombian investments in the agroindustrial and tourism sectors and the unity of the two countries in the international coffee and banana markets, especially in the latter because of the EC restrictions.

Government Dismisses Negotiations With EC Commission

PA2810225593 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 20 Oct 93 p 14a

[Report by Jose Alberto Briceno]

[Text] Costa Rican Foreign Trade Minister Roberto Rojas has reported that Costa Rica has dismissed the possibility of negotiating with a commission appointed by EC agriculture ministers, because "they have not been given the power to change the current system of licenses, which does not allow us to sell bananas at market prices." The minister also said that "we know beforehand that we will not reach any agreement" if we continue with this type of talks.

The EC Council of Ministers has appointed the group to meet with the Latin American countries that are members of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and reach an agreement on compensations for the fruit after the EC adopted a new Common Market Organization (OCM).

The OCM limits banana imports from the region to 2 million tons a year and, on this quota, imposes a custom tariff of 100 ECU's [European Currency Units] per ton. Supplementary imports are subject to a prohibitive tax of 850 ECU's per ton.

Rojas stressed that the EC had been informed that if a satisfactory agreement is not reached with the Latin American banana-producing countries before 15 December, the Latin Americans will not participate in the final negotiations of GATT's Uruguay Round. "We have formed a bloc of Latin American countries to demand that the negotiations held in the framework of the Uruguay Round not be limited to the interests of the United States and Europe but also consider the developing nations' urgent issues," he said.

Correction to Government Abides by Expropriation Ruling

PA2810144593

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Government To Abide by Expropriation Ruling," published in the 28 October Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 22: Column one, make sourceline read: San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 20 Oct 93 p 4A (correcting date)

El Salvador

Foreign Minister Expresses 'Disagreement' With Butrus-Ghali

PA2810185393 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 22 Oct 93

[From the "Up-to-Date" newscast]

[Text] Salvadoran Foreign Minister Dr. Manuel Pacas Castro has voiced disagreement with certain statements by UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali contained in a report he submitted to the UN Security Council on compliance with Truth Commission recommendations.

In his last report to the Security Council, Butrus-Ghali said, for example, that the government nomination of Dr. Mauricio Gutierrez Castro, Supreme Court of Justice president, for a seat on the OAS Judicial Committee, would contradict the spirit, if not the letter, of the Truth Commission recommendation to remove Gutierrez Castro from his current post. The Salvadoran foreign minister totally disagreed with the UN secretary general's opinion.

[Begin Pacas Castro recording] I regret disagreeing with the secretary general on this issue because El Salvador nominated Gutierrez Castro for this position a long time ago, long before the Truth Commission report came out. His candidacy has been maintained and supported by many countries of the American continent; therefore, we can do nothing about it. [end recording]

Likewise, Butrus-Ghali in his report to the Security Council said that eight Armed Forces officers, the discharge of who was recommended by the Truth Commission, are still in their positions. Dr. Pacas Castro said that no one outside the Armed Forces can determine when to discharge these Army members.

[Begin Pacas Castro recording] As for those in the military career track, their profession is subject to legislation. The Constitution clearly states that ranks, promotions, discharges, and demotions have to be done in accordance with the law. Therefore, the officers are obliged to enforce the law. In this sense, it is my personal opinion that it would be somewhat difficult to heed any suggestion by foreigners, including those of the United Nations, that violates Salvadoran law. [end recording]

However, it is not known how long the Salvadoran foreign minister's position can be maintained because, according to a UN communique dated 21 October, the Security Council will not stop focusing on compliance with the Truth Commission recommendations. Thus, the Security Council has asked both the government and the FMLN to develop a timetable to ensure full compliance with those recommendations that are still pending.

Police Uncover Plot To Assassinate Cristiani, Others

PA2910033093 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 28 Oct 93 p 5

[Text] National Civilian Police [PNC] Director Jose Maria Monterrey yesterday reported the discovery of a plot to assassinate President Alfredo Cristiani, Nationalist Republican Alliance presidential candidate Armando Calderon Sol, and Monterrey himself.

Monterrey said the State Security Office obtained the information on the death threats from reliable sources and documents seized during recent police operations. The director declined to give further details "for security reasons and because an investigation is ongoing." He would only add that an investigation is under way to identify the masterminds behind the threats.

In addition, Monterrey said that this November, 27 Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] members will seek refuge under Decree 572, which offers "protection for people under special security measures." He said that two of these 27 people are Captains Francisco Mena Sandoval and Marcelo Cruz, who defected from the Army in 1981 to join the People's Revolutionary Army, one of five FMLN member organizations. Four people will be appointed bodyguards for each of the heads of the five FMLN member organizations. Two bodyguards will be assigned to each of the other FMLN members.

The protection service will be provided by people who fully enjoy the leaders' trust. The PNC director said these agents will be regarded as supernumerary, be given PNC credentials, and be guaranteed by contract a salary of 2,000 colones per month.

Organizations Investigate Murder of FMLN Leader

PA2910011693 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 27 Oct 93, p 5

[Text] The Office of the Prosecutor General, the Commission to Investigate Criminal Actions, and the Judicial Branch have launched an in-depth investigation to clarify the death of FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] leader Francisco Velis Castellanos, which occurred on 25 October.

Prosecuting Attorneys Jose Roberto Garay Pineda and Armando Miguel Guerra Quevedo, who were appointed to the case by Prosecutor General Romeo Melara Granillo, said they will ask 2d Criminal Judge Daniel Gonzalez Romero, who heads the case, to order the reconstruction of the crime, which occurred on 39th Avenue North, between University Boulevard and Los Lirios Street of this capital.

At the site, the Commission to Investigate Criminal Actions obtained a fragment of the bullet that killed Velis, and yesterday they continued to analyze it to

determine the weapon's caliber. The prosecuting attorneys said the weapon's caliber could not be determined by looking at the bullet, but they added that they knew that it was an explosive bullet.

The 2d Criminal Court, which handled the corpse, took statements from Mrs. Marta de Velis, the victim's wife, who only said she did not know the motives of the crime and that her husband had not been threatened.

Witnesses Make Statements

Two witnesses who were near the site of the crime also made statements, saying that they saw the moment when two men aged 25 to and 30 years old, in addition to other descriptions already in the hands of the authorities, approached Velis Castellanos. One of them pulled out a gun and shot him in the head and, immediately, both of them hurriedly fled from the place.

The witnesses said they immediately informed two members of the National Police who were approximately 100 meters away, but the policemen only said they had seen two young men run by, that they did not stop them because they did not know what had happened and had not heard any gunshot. This caused the Prosecutor General's Office to immediately ask the judge of the case to summon the two policemen so that they can make statements.

The autopsy of the corpse was done by Dr. Joaquin Alfonso Aguilar, forensic doctor of the "Dr. Roberto Masferrer" Legal Medicine Institute, who determined that "the direct cause of Velis Castellanos' death was the destruction of the encephalic mass caused by the passage of the projectile, which also caused the destruction of all the bones of the skull, as evidenced by its explosive character of great expansive power." "There were no traces of gunpowder or smoke around the orifice made by the projectile when entering, thus making it impossible to determine the distance at which the shot was made; it can be surmised, however, that the shot was made at a distance of more than 50 centimeters."

The former FMLN commander's death occurred at 0740 last Monday, when he was about to leave his daughter at a child care center; two men intercepted him, and one of them shot him in the head. His two-year-old daughter fell over her father's body, and passersby took care of her.

Unanimous Condemnation

In the meantime, the different political parties and social organizations coincided in condemning Velis' murder. In the morning hours, Reverend Edgar Palacios, of the Permanent Committee for the National Debate on Peace, presented a letter to the Legislative Assembly demanding the creation of a commission formed by deputies, members of Onusal [UN Observers for El Salvador], and representatives of the U.S. Government to investigate the facts.

When we tried to get statements from the higher members of the Catholic Church, Monsignors Arturo Rivera Damas and Gregorio Rosa Chavez, personnel of the archbishopric, reported they were at a retreat that will end on 26 October.

Deputy Rene Figueroa, of Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance], said the Catholic Church lends itself to the endorsement of violence in the country and demanded that it rectify its actions and dedicate itself to its religious activities.

The remains of the political leader were at the Law School of the University of El Salvador yesterday and will be taken today at 0900 to El Rosario Church for a burial mass and later to this capital's cemetery.

Copaz Forms Investigation Subcommission

PA2910012393 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] The National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace, Copaz, today formed a special subcommission that will follow up on the investigations by different state organizations on the murder of Francisco Velis.

Apparently the murder of the former rebel commander was not a common crime, UN Observers for El Salvador [Onusal] and FMLN members have admitted. This prompted Copaz, the organization responsible for overseeing and verifying compliance with the peace accords, to create such a subcommission.

[Begin unidentified Copaz spokesman recording] We will oversee the actions of the courts investigating the crime, as well as those of the Prosecutor General's Office and the Human Rights Ombudsman's Office. We will also visit the National Civilian Police. [end recording]

The subcommission, which will be in place during the investigations of the murder of Francisco Velis, will be formed by one FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] member, one government member, and one UN representative who work for different Copaz commissions.

[Begin unidentified Copaz spokesman recording] The subcommission will be formed by Dr. Miguel Saens, Walter Araujo, and Mrs. Antonini, Onusal representative. We will visit different organizations shortly. [end recording]

Subcommission members emphatically said that the subcommission's main objective will not be to investigate the case, rather to follow up on the work done by investigation agencies.

CPDN Calls for Investigation Into Death Squads

PA2910022393 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Report by Milton Grimaldi]

[Text] The Permanent Committee for the National Debate on Peace [CPDN] today reported on the reappearance of death squads in El Salvador with the murder of former FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] fighter Francisco Velis, on which even the U.S. State Department has issued a statement. According to the CPDN, it is necessary to investigate the death squads.

Today, the CPDN presented a letter to the National Assembly calling for an investigation into all clandestine groups and the appointment of a special investigative commission. The CPDN also demanded the declassification of information held by the United States related to clandestine groups operating in El Salvador.

[Begin CPDN Coordinator Reverend Edgar Palacios recording] For the sake of an independent, representative investigation, all the while taking into account political plurarism, we must investigate the squads in a manner in which we always try to identify their members, their modus operandi, their sources of financing, their means of obtaining arms, and so on. Meanwhile, the CPDN today will forward a request to the U.S. Justice Department, as well as to the U.S. Attorney General, urging them to declassify those documents in their possession which contain evidence to adequately ascertain the links between financial and political power groups in El Salvador with the death squads. [end recording]

According to the CPDN, in 1984 the FBI conducted an investigation in El Salvador within the context of a campaign designed to gather funds in favor of a specific political party in El Salvador.

Rev. Edgar Palacios indicated that this investigation could be concluded within two months and that it could help the country's election process. He pointed out that all that is needed is the government's willingness.

[Begin Palacios recording] We have information that leads us to believe that the Clinton administration is willing to declassify these documents. [end recording]

The CPDN believes that the death squads have reappeared because the problem was not tackled when it should have been. Palacios believes the National Assembly will have an important role to play in this investigation process. The CPDN members handed over its letter to the Democratic Convergence party, and it was learned that the letter will be submitted to the National Assembly at its next plenary session.

Guatemala

De Leon Comments on OAS Takeover, Government's Position

PA2810233293 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 28 Oct 93

[From the "Telepress" newscast]

[Text] President Ramiro de Leon Carpio today discussed the takeover of the Guatemala headquarters of the OAS by activists from the National Commission of Guatemalan Widows and the Peasants Unity Committee.

The president said it was impossible to move to expel the protesters from the building without first receiving authorization from the international organization or without obtaining a warrant from an appropriate judge. Therefore, OAS Headquarters in Washington has been notified about the events in Guatemala.

[Begin recording] [De Leon] Indeed, we were informed yesterday that the government minister had sent several messages to OAS Headquarters. Because we are dealing with local offices of an international organization, we can only move to evict the protesters if we are authorized to do so by the main headquarters. Because the Guatemalan Government respects international agreements and international law, we will only be able to proceed when we receive a request from the representatives of this organization and after we obtain authorization from a competent judge. In Guatemala, there is a climate of freedom, democracy, and respect for the law. These protesters are carrying out an illegal act. They are occupying an international office in an arbitrary and illegal manner. Nevertheless, we have to respect the installation, because it belongs to an international organization. For this reason...

[Unidentified reporter, interrupting] Mr. President...

[De Leon continues] For this reason, the government of the Republic, through its government minister, has sent appropriate telegrams and faxes, and we are simply awaiting a reply.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] from the Central American presidents?

[De Leon] No, I would say that support is coming from the Guatemalan people. The polls, as well as presidential tours, have shown this. I would like you to accompany me one of these days so you can see for yourselves. In the polls—and not only in the capital, but also in the interior—there is absolute support for the president of the Republic. Naturally, there are differences of opinion, but that is the nature of a democratic system.

Nevertheless, support is overwhelming, and that is why I am making decisions and acting in the name of the Guatemalan people. Some groups oppose some decisions I have made. We plan to meet with these groups in the near future to discuss the situation. We will soon be meeting with the country's production, business, and labor sectors to start preparing an agenda that will ultimately lead to a national agreement on issues such as prices, wages, and so on.

Meanwhile, the government continues to forge ahead. The problems currently being confronted by the Legislative and Judicial Branches are their problems. With each passing day, the government completes a new project in

the interior of the country. We hardly have any time to ourselves because of the numerous projects we instituting in the interior. These projects are designed to fight poverty and eliminate the threat of subversion. They serve to decentralize the government, which is the objective of this administration, and they eliminate the need for economic subsidies, or having to depend on the state. Therefore, we are managing the country based on a well established government program. [end recording]

Demonstrations at Congress Turn Violent; Reporters Attacked

PA2810230593 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 28 Oct 93

[From the "Telepress" newscast]

[Text] Today there were serious incidents at the doors of the Legislative Palace and the surrounding area because of the violent attitude of a group of demonstrators against reporters from several different media. Some of the reporters were attacked, while others had their equipment stolen.

The clashes began at the doors of the congressional parking lot at the corner of 8th and 10th Streets in Zone 1. Later, the clashes spread throughout a one and one-half block area between the Legislative Palace and the Ritz Continental Hotel. As of noon today, the clashes had resulted in five reporters being injured, three cameras being lost, and damage to a number stores and vehicles.

The episode began when demonstrators from the outskirts of the city, particularly from the northeastern part of the city, stopped reporters from entering the Legislative Palace. They demanded identification from some of the reporters, while other reporters were beaten without warning.

After the reporters resisted the demonstrators' arrogance, some demonstrators began throwing rocks and sharp objects at the reporters. Realizing they were outnumbered, and considering how aggressive their attackers had become, the reporters attempted to flee. The demonstrators pursued them, however, and, after catching up with the reporters, they started a new clash.

On 10th Street between 7th and 8th Avenues of Zone 1, journalists Ricardo Lopez and Gerson Lopez were attacked and had two cameras, one radio, a pair of eyeglasses, and other valuables stolen. Meanwhile, the son of Ecuadoran Ambassador to Guatemala Alvaro Cedras, who happened to be in the area by chance, was attacked and beaten with sticks, which resulted in the breaking of one of his arms. After the reporters entered the Ritz Continental Hotel, the clashes ended because the demonstrators remained outside the building.

Deputies Said Determined To Support Reforms Bill

PA2910013993 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 26 Oct 93 p 4

[Report by Carmen Aida Ibarra]

[Text] Despite President Ramiro de Leon Carpio's adamant rejection yesterday, deputies of the Guatemalan Christian Democracy and blocs that comprise the Great Parliamentary Group [GGP] are firmly determined to support their constitutional reforms bill, and they are preparing to launch the approval process tomorrow.

While De Leon reasserted his rejection of the reforms prepared by deputies of the DC [Guatemalan Christian Democracy], FRG [Guatemalan Republican Front], UCN [Union of the National Center], MAS [Solidarity Action Movement], PSD [Democratic Socialist Party], Christian Democratic National Change Front, FAN [National Advancement Front], other miniblocs, and most of the independent deputies, the deputies gathered in a downtown hotel and reviewed the final details of a series of modifications, practically leaving intact the contents of the agreements negotiated between 7 and 22 October.

Following a meeting that started at 1030 and ended at 1830, the deputies scheduled a new revision meeting for today, with the intention of concluding the draft reforms on the Attorney General's Office and municipal authorities. In this way the modifications will be ready for their presentation at a plenum tomorrow, when the permanent session continues.

GGP leader Arturo Soto Aguirre has said that the Congress blocs are continuing to endorse the constitutional reforms, and they are firmly convinced these reforms represent the only solution to the political and legitimacy crisis that is prevailing in the country.

"Deputies will not remain in Congress forever, because the reforms are not a pretext to clinging to our seats. The process must lead to general elections so that the people may legitimize their state organizations, agencies, and authorities with their ballots," he said.

If Congress approves the reforms, although the president opposes them, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal will have to decide if it will use the 28 November referendum to hold a consultation concerning the constitutional reforms, he added.

Soto said the deputies are hoping the president will change his opinion when he learns about the reforms' contents, because they deal only with the state's reorganization—without going beyond that goal.

He also hopes De Leon Carpio will accept to participate in a dialogue so that they may outline the reforms' contents, just as they hope to do it with the labor and business organizations.

Due to the lack of an agreement and consensus, the DC and GGP eliminated the proposal presented by the FRG bloc from the reforms. The proposal modified Article 281 so that changes could later be made to Article 186.

This last article establishes prohibitions to opt for the post of president of the Republic, including various prohibitions that have prevented General Efrain Rios Montt from becoming a candidate—because he ruled as a result of a coup d'etat.

The FRG's proposal was rejected, because blocs participating in the negotiations denied their support. This does not rule out, however, the possibility that the FRG bloc may directly submit its proposal when the parliamentary branch begins its approval process.

DC Secretary General Alfonso Cabrera said his party will not even discuss or consider reforms to Articles 281 and 186, because it would be illegal to touch these articles and it would allow a violation of the Constitution. Article 281 and its contents cannot be reformed, he said.

Defense Minister Confirms Belizean Military Incursions

PA2810155693 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0221 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 26 Oct (NOTIMEX)—The Guatemalan Defense Ministry today confirmed that Belizean soldiers have on several occasions made incursions into Guatemalan territory, but the Belizean Government has ruled out any deterioration of bilateral relations.

Defense Minister General Mario Enriquez said the incursions by Belizean soldiers could have taken place because the Belizeans were not aware of the location of the border markings.

The military chief announced that next week he will meet with the commanders of the 23d Military Zone and the Pacific Naval Base and with authorities of Belize and the United Kingdom to discuss this problem.

On 19 October, the Guatemalan Armed Forces (FAG) warned Belize that they would repel any military incursion under the principle of the "inviolability of sovereignty."

Army spokeswoman Edith Vargas confirmed that approximately 60 military members (soldiers, officers, and specialists) headed by General Jose Rodriguez, commander of the 23d Military Zone, went to the border with Belize to verify the incursion.

On 16 October, inhabitants of the Melchor de Mencos Municipality, 610 km north of the capital, denounced incursions by Belizean soldiers into Guatemalan territory, during which the Belizeans destroyed corn and rice crops.

Guatemala and Belize have had territorial disputes for 150 years that have caused several border incidents. On 4 February 1972, the Guatemalan Army, through joint operations with El Salvador, planned to invade Belize, but British intelligence discovered the plan.

Guatemalan Foreign Minister Arturo Fajardo hinted at the possibility of issuing a diplomatic protest note, but Amin Figueroa, charge d'affaires of the Belizean Embassy here, said his government "is not worried" by the accusations.

He admitted that Belizean military forces constantly enter Guatemala because they "get lost in the forest, not because they mean to harass the Army."

Narcotics Agents Capture Medellin, Cali Cartels' Contact

PA2810231293 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 22 Oct 93 p 3

[Text] Following a shoot yesterday in the Villas Club El Dorado Neighborhood, in Zone Eight of Mixco, agents of the Treasury Police's Narcotics Operations Department (DOAN) captured the main contact of Colombia's Medellin and Cali cartels in Guatemala.

The detainee, identified as Harold Garcia, was with his wife, Luz Marina Ruiz Del Guercio, during the arrest. Both Colombians opened fire when they noticed the presence of DOAN agents.

The Treasury Police retreated and shot back. One of the agents was able to get close enough to the house to spray gas, forcing the Colombian couple to surrender to Treasury Police authorities.

At the moment of the arrest and after the house was searched, the Treasury Police seized several weapons, a power generator, wires and lights used to illuminate clandestine runways, radio equipment, maps, and other items used to land foreign aircraft.

Treasury Police authorities said that Harold Garcia was known in Guatemala as Manuel Santos Reyes. He forged documents to move around the country freely and to receive the shipments coming from Colombia and then ship them to the United States.

The police added that Harold Garcia owns several farms in different points of the Republic. These farms have clandestine runways that are used by the Cali and Medellin Cartels to unload drugs.

Four Others Also Captured

Harold Garcia's capture occurred after four Colombians were arrested yesterday early in the morning at km 26 of the Inter-American Highway, in San Lucas Sacatepequez jurisdiction. They were carrying 140 kg of cocaine worth 14 million quetzals.

The detainees are Luis Carlos Muegues Vaquero, Fredy Angulo Enrique Pena, Belisario Vega Gomez, and

Shirley Gomez Salazar, who were driving a Mitsubishi minivan with license plate No. P-71768 to where the drug was being transported.

DOAN agents were tipped off that the four presumed members of a cell of the drug cartels were going to ship the load. They had been under surveillance for several days.

Treasury Police agents followed them and adopted the strategy of waiting at that spot to prevent any surprises or attacks that could cause innocent victims.

During the arrest, the presumed drug traffickers resisted, but when they saw that they were outnumbered they decided to give up. DOAN agents searched the minivan and found the 140 kg of cocaine.

Honduras

Callejas, Gaviria News Conference

PA2810181093 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 0005 GMT 27 Oct 93

[News conference by Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas and Colombian President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo with unidentified moderator and foreign and domestic correspondents at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in San Pedro Sula; including the reading of the "text" of the joint statement signed by Presidents Callejas and Gaviria by Maribel Maradiaga, press and information secretary of the Honduran Foreign Ministry—live]

[Text] [Maradiaga] At an invitation of Rafael Leonardo Callejas Romero, president of the Republic of Honduras, Colombian President Dr. Cesar Gaviria Trujillo paid a state visit to Honduras on 26 and 27 October. President Gaviria Trujillo was decorated with Great Gold Cross of the Morazan Order [word indistinct] by the president of the Republic of Honduras; while President Callejas was decorated by Colombian president with the Boyaca Order of the Great Collar.

Joint Declaration: The presidents expressed the importance of the Rio Group as a regional consultation and rapprochement and as political interlocutor in the international arena. They voiced their satisfaction for the results of the seventh presidential summit of the Rio Group held in Santiago, Chile, on 15 October. They underscored the importance of political stability and economic recovery of Nicaragua for the region. They urged the international community to offer their firm support to that country's reconstruction program. They voiced their concern over recent developments in Haiti and reaffirmed their support for UN and OAS efforts to bring about a return of democratic institutionality to that nation. They urged the parties to redouble efforts to comply with the Governor's Island Agreement signed on 3 July 1993.

The presidents voiced their satisfaction with the progress made within the framework of G-3 [Group of Three]-Central American relations to promote integration and strengthen cooperation among the countries of the region. They noted their satisfaction with the specific progress made in the regional integration process. They agreed that in order to continue said processes, it is indispensable to have democratic institutions in place, observe respect for human rights, and achieve economic development, giving priority to the struggle to eradicate poverty. They agreed in highlighting the importance of the participation of the private sector in the integration process, as a basic pillar for the achievement of a true and effective system of international free trade.

The presidents agreed that the Trade and Investment Agreement between the Republics of Colombia, Venezuela, and Central American countries, which was signed on 12 February 1993, opens many possibilities to the region's states. In this regard, President Callejas noted the work that is being done at the regional level so as to revise the supply of export products, as well as tariff rates to implement said accord as soon as possible.

Regarding the banana issue, the presidents reiterated their decision to continue actions against the EEC to maintain access to such markets and achieve total banana trade freedom. They reiterated the contents of the San Andres Colombia Proposal signed by banana-producing countries in February of 1991.

Upon analyzing the coffee problems, they recognized coffee as one of the basic products for the economies of the region and that the current situation of the coffee market has negative effects on these economies. They termed as positive the creation of the Coffee-Producing Countries Association during the [two-second break in reception] Republic of Brazil [two-second break in reception] of the current year.

They stated their firm commitment to [three-second break in reception] and illegal use of drugs and other psychotropic substances. To this effect, they urged the mixed commissions established within the framework of the administrative agreement of 4 March of 1980 to undertake the necessary steps to arrange an agreement on the issue as soon as possible.

They highlighted the importance of bilateral cooperation in the process of economic and social development of each nation. In this respect, and with the objective of increasing and encouraging existing relations, they agreed to promote a technical meeting to review current agreements and, in general, to strengthen the cooperation programs between both countries.

Both nations expressed their approval for the cooperation [words indistinct] being offered to the Honduran Science and Technology Council; an advisory that will benefit Honduran scientific and technical development. They also agree to research further the exchange of experience through horizontal technical cooperation

between the National Institute of Professional Training and Colombia's National Apprenticeship Service [Sena].

President Callejas expressed his appreciation for the cooperation offer presented by the Colombian Government to undertake agricultural development and entrepreneur projects to be carried out by the Colombian Agriculture-Livestock Institute and Sena experts.

President Gaviria expressed his concern for the damages Honduras incurred as a result of Tropical Storm Gert, and offered technical assistance in matters related to natural disaster awareness and prevention. President Callejas Romero thanked the offer and pointed out that this cooperation will be of enormous benefit to Honduras considering Colombian experience in the matter.

Both president expressed their satisfaction with the adequate progress in the technology transfer project on housing matters carried out in Tegucigalpa by the Servivienda of Colombia, with resources from Colombian technical assistance and cooperation with Central America and the Caribbean Fund, along with FEDECOH [expansion unknown] which has contributed toward solving housing needs for lower income groups.

The presidents agreed that tourism is a human activity that eases communication and peaceful coexistence among nations constituting an element that helps to increase social welfare of nations.

In the name of his government, President Gaviria thanked the Honduran people and Government for their hospitality, and the expression of friendship during his visit.

[Issued] San Pedro Sula, Honduras, 26 October 1993.

[Signed] Cesar Gaviria Trujillo, president of the Republic of Colombia

Rafael Leonardo Callejas, president of the Republic of Honduras

[Announcer] You have just heard Maribel Maradiaga, press and information secretary of the Foreign Ministry, read the text of the joint declaration by the presidents of Honduras and Colombia. This is a special transmission by HRN from the Cortez Chamber of Commerce and Industries located in the northern city of San Pedro Sula. Both presidents are now proceeding to sign the joint declaration which entails a firm commitment as we had pointed out last week [static] significant economic and cultural cooperation as well as technological transfers from the Colombian Government. It also represents investments which will be of great benefit to our country. This is HRN Voz de Honduras. Let us now listen to journalist Pastor Viviesca from the Colombian newspaper EL ESPECTADOR.

[Viviesca] I would like to ask President Callejas how the situation in Nicaragua could influence [word indistinct] Central America especially now that there are rumors about tension in the border area between Honduras and Nicaragua? In addition, there is speculation about armed clashes, on El Chacal [Jose Angel Talavera] having entered Honduran territory, and there are denials flying back and forth, Nicaragua says one thing and Honduras says another. What do you believe is going to happen?

[Announcer] This is HRN Voz de Honduras. We will now listen to President Callejas' reply.

[Callejas] Thank you very much. I would like to thank the Colombian president and his delegation for their visit to San Pedro Sula. The situation in Nicaragua is of deep concern to the Central American presidents. This situation was explained to the G-3 foreign ministers. Ever since the El Salvador presidential summit we requested, within the nonintervention framework, to be able to share information on the Nicaraguan situation. In this respect President Violeta Chamorro even requested the cooperation of the Central American foreign ministers who went to Nicaragua to try to promote a dialogue among the various sectors of Nicaraguan society. Logically, the institutional and political situation in Nicaragua has very serious connotations for the Central American region. Permanent stability to that sister nation will enable it not only to ensure safety and peace to his inhabitants, but also encourage economic growth, which is a decisive ingredient for Nicaragua.

The events of the last few months have led to some armed confrontations within Nicaraguan territory among Nicaraguans. The information we have received from our military intelligence sources, as of this moment, is that only civilian refugees have entered Honduras and that there have been no armed clashes on Honduran soil between Nicaraguans. It is very important that it be clearly understood that nothing else has happened on our territory.

The Honduran Government position is very clear and specific: We will tend to any unarmed refugees through existing channels; primarily the Red Cross and then, if necessary, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. No Nicaraguans or citizens of any other nation will be allowed to enter Honduran territory armed.

[Moderator] Mauricio Romero Murillo.

[Reporter] President Gaviria, the Central American agricultural products export offer is about 200. Central Americans think they are limited by Colombian price drops. Is Colombia's position flexible?

[Gaviria] This is an important subject. I talked with Costa Rican President Calderon yesterday and with President Callejas today. We pointed out that the Central American presidents, who will meet in Guatemala tomorrow, somehow should realize the need to conclude the Colombia-Venezuela-Central America trade agreement. I mention this because there are three important subjects to settle and which require a political decision. We wish to conclude this agreement because otherwise

government changes in various countries can set back this negotiation several more months, maybe years instead of months.

A subject concerns Colombia and Venezuela. Although we have offered to allow the immediate entry of virtually 90 percent of Central America's exportable supply into our countries, we have received a relatively mild response from the Central American community and a rather slow response for the immediate entry of Colombian and Venezuelan products into the Central American market. Two subjects are of concern for Central America and, obviously, for our countries. These subjects deal with how demanding the origin standards are in Central America and how much Central American added value should products have to be regarded as Central American and exported to our countries.

The third topic is the price ranges, which are objected to by Central America. In this regard, I wish to point out that it is very difficult for Colombia and Venezuela to change their policies because they are the result of a long process for something not easy to attain. Colombia and Venezuela opened themselves up to the international agricultural products market. We are importing without license with the tariffs included in various price ranges. This is part of our policy and the result of difficult decisions. Details can be discussed in a technical meeting, but it is not easy for us to change these policies.

[Reporter] Presidents Callejas and Gaviria. We have heard there are obstacles to a free trade agreement. There seems to be little possibility of attaining a balance between added value and this tax. In addition, regarding changes in the governments of countries like Costa Rica. [sentence as heard] How can we remove obstacles and make sure the agreement will be reached? Time seems to be running out for Central America, Colombia, and Venezuela.

[Callejas] The topics that the president of Colombia discussed and informed us about and which have been developed by technical groups demand a very precise analysis and political opinions and decisions. To the extent that we fear to face the realities of a changing world and must tend to free trade markets and zones, the development process in Central America is (?affected). The proposals are ample and emphasis is made on the presence of these two elements, which we will discuss in the president's meeting to be held in Guatemala. We will underline the need to find mechanisms—knowing the stands of Colombia and Venezuela, explained by President Gaviria—to approve a free trade agreement as soon as possible.

[Moderator] Jose Rolando Sarmiento of HRN.

[Sarmiento] Mr. Gaviria, with all due respect, I would like ask you about something that is painful and has a strong dose of [10-second break in reception] the Armed Forces and congress, the Judicial Branch, and society as a whole are also struggling against that great peril to today's society, so we are not used as a transshipment point for international drug traffickers. Some people here who follow ideological considerations, or that is how they think, want to return to the old pattern of pitting civilians [three-second break in reception] but the vice chairman of the National Commission, chaired by President Callejas, has told us, as a congress deputy and [word indistinct], we cannot separate civilians and military in this struggle, because this is a struggle for all society. Based on your experience, and the pain and (?burden) Colombia has experienced in that struggle, can you tell us how to face this together?

[Gaviria] It is very difficult to counsel other countries on how to face this issue. I would say there is a series of [five-second break in reception] and a concern we share [27-second break in reception] ready to combat the demand, and the trafficking of chemical precursors. (?There is also) the topic of money laundering. If this effort is not multilateral, success is remote. It is necessary to understand, and this is something the Colombian people have learned the hard way, that there cannot be tolerance for drug trafficking. One cannot look the other way. One cannot think that the problem will be resolved by itself. This would entail much danger to society. This is what drug traffickers use to take the upper hand because people involved in this activity try to exert political and economic influence on the countries and they become factors for disorder.

The third thing is that everybody has to become involved in a struggle of this kind, which does not mean this must be fundamentally a struggle of specialized entities. [as heard] That is very necessary, and we understand it that way in Colombia. A highly trained group with a very high morale is devoted to that purpose. We have done that with the police. That is fundamental in facing the problem, even if everybody is involved. There will always have to be a small elite group working on that field. Intelligence, which is another aspect and is perhaps more important, entails a [words indistinct] commitment of everybody. An intelligence group working on this matter is very important.

The last thing would be that it is absolutely essential to have justice ready to face these problems. In Colombia, we have done it that way. Our justice system has undergone a great many changes. We have (?created) institutions that are difficult to accept and understand for our Latin temperament, meaning, secret justice, secret judges, major protection for judges. When one is facing powerful criminal organizations, with the characteristics that mark drug-trafficking organizations, it is often very difficult to face the problem with the traditional justice system.

[Moderator] Ernesto Rojas.

[Rojas] Good evening President Gaviria. I know Colombia is the world's second largest banana exporter. The price of the product has gone down in the wake of the quotas imposed by the EC. How do you view this.

Has capturing drug lord Pablo Escobar Gaviria turned into an impossible mission?

[Gaviria] You mention several topics. I will start with your last question by pointing out that it is a difficult mission. Nevertheless, ever since Colombia established a Search Bloc to find Escobar and his criminal group last year, it published a list of 20 leaders who were members of Escobar's organization and that we had plans to find or capture. All 20 of them were either captured and imprisoned or killed resisting arrest during police operations. This shows that the Search Bloc has been very efficient. It achieved all that in less than one year. We have not yet caught Escobar but hope to do so.

With regard to the banana issue, I would like to reiterate what I said to President Callejas, Costa Rican reporters, and President Calderon: Colombia and Costa Rica have a large responsibility with the Latin American countries. Colombia and Costa Rica are GATT members. In the coming weeks and months we will go to the GATT assembly to see if a solution of [word indistinct] can be found to the banana problem. There is a possibility that we can negotiate. If so, we hope to negotiate in the name of everyone and find a solution which, even if not entirely satisfactory, will eventually alleviate the very difficult situation experienced by our countries.

It seems the EC wants to offer some sort of compensation for withdrawing something it consolidated 30 years ago: a single tariff restriction of 20 percent on banana imports. The measure has not been kept and this goes against EC regulations. We have stated that we cannot accept the new conditions with such a restrictive quota; one that does not increase automatically. We cannot accept such a high tariff after the quota is met, plus the presentation of licenses that our countries do not have. Some abatement must be made to such restrictive conditions which, as we have stated in several opportunities, are illegal according to GATT regulations.

[Moderator] Question by [word indistinct] Stephanie Beundag of THE NEWSPAPER.

[Beundag] [question indistinct]

[Gaviria in English] Do you want the answer in Spanish or English?

[Beundag] I would prefer it in English.

[Gaviria in English] If you want to know which is the problem, I could try to explain it [words indistinct].

[Beundag in English] I just want to know what points you think discriminate against the Latin American banana-producing countries?

[Gaviria in English] Well, it is easy to understand that we are having a quota which is under our exports we made in 1992, that after that quota we are receiving tariffs which are 212 percent and the other issue is that we are operating with licenses; licenses taken by the traditional importers [words indistinct].

Nicaragua

National Assembly Approves Resolution Supporting Cuba

PA2810142293 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1925 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Managua, 27 Oct (DPA)—The Nicaraguan Congress today approved a resolution in support of Cuba and condemning the economic blockade that continues to affect that Caribbean nation. The resolution urges nations to comply with UN Resolution 47-19 approved at the 47th UN General Assembly on 24 November 1992.

This resolution approved in New York was referred to as "the need to end the economic, commercial, and financial blockade of the United States of America against Cuba. [no closing quotation marks as received]

Nicaraguan legislators also asked UN member states to approve during the 48th UN General Assembly a motion presented by Cuba calling for an end to the economic, commercial, and financial blockade "affecting the Cuban people."

The Nicaraguan National Assembly also asked Violeta Chamorro administration's delegation to the United Nations to unanimously support the proposal presented by the Cuban delegation before the United Nations and called on UN member states to immediately fulfill Resolution 47-19, as well as the resolution that may be approved in the new period of sessions.

Deputy Alejandro Solorzano, chairman of the Nicaraguan National Assembly Foreign Relations Committee, in a plenary session thanked the Cuban people for their assistance to Nicaragua, especially the Atlantic Coast of this Central American nation, which has received medical attention from Cuban doctors.

The resolution was approved after the initiative by Deputy Orlando Pineda was presented to the Nicaraguan Congress.

UNO Deputies Protest Ruling on Unconstitutionality Writ

PA2810234693 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 Oct 93 P 15

[Report by Ariel Montoya]

[Text] The eighth parliamentary session of the second legislative period began today at 1100. Deputies of different legislative wings began arriving at the National Assembly building at 0900.

The recent Supreme Court [CSJ] ruling against the Unconstitutionality Writ as presented by the UNO [National Opposition Union] was the topic of conversation among parliamentarians, journalists, and visitors to the National Assembly.

Moises Hassan, Social Democratic legislative wing member, said that shortly after the previous discussion began UNO deputies would leave the building, as they have been doing following a UNO-designed strategy.

"It is very likely that after participating in the previous discussion we will withdraw," stated Hassan, who explained that the most important aspect of the UNO parliamentary work would be the demonstrations of rejection of the CSJ ruling.

"Due to not only juridical but also political reasons, this ruling does not change anything, because it is irrelevant; had the writ been accepted, things would have changed, because it would imply a redefinition," Hassan said.

Meanwhile, Sergio Ramirez Mercado, Sandinist legislative wing leader, said that there was a justification of illegality "expressed in a writ signed by UNO deputies" before the CSJ. He added that after the ruling was issued, the opposition coalition should have respected the outcome of the ruling.

"I believe that if a group of deputies appeared before the CSJ, it is obvious that they should recognize such a ruling," Ramirez said. He took the floor at the beginning of the previous discussion, saying that the economic cabinet should explain the results of the negotiations with international financial organizations.

"The issue of the adjustment and monetary stabilization, known as ESAF [Economic Structural Adjustment Facility], is an affair that concerns the National Assembly," Ramirez said.

Last night at the Foreign Ministry, Roger Mendieta Alfaro, spokesman for the UNO Political Council, said that they have spoken to the executive on the assembly issue. In this regard, Ramirez remarked that he does not understand what agreements can be made, because this is not the executive's responsibility.

"I really do not understand how a meeting between the government and the UNO can affect this issue," he remarked.

Meanwhile, Dr. Edmundo Castillo said that the opposition coalition's legislative wing will continue to use the same strategy it has been developing during the last sessions.

"We will continue the same strategy, and we will implement new alternatives that will be known during the four sessions remaining this year," Castillo said.

The Conservative deputy also referred to the CSJ ruling, which he termed "innocuous" and "illegal." In addition, he said that the court did not refer to the legality of the current Assembly Board of Directors.

"As the UNO, we are defenseless and we cannot, therefore, present constitutional reforms, if we do not first define the situation of the legislature," Castillo said.

Army Spokesman Claims 3-80 Front Leader Fled to Honduras

PA2810194693 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0230 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Report by Erica Ramirez; from the "National" newscast]

[Text] The Sandinist People's Army [EPS] confirmed today El Chacal [Jose Angel Talavera] entered Honduran territory and has remained there since 18 October. This was a reply to statements by Honduran military leaders, who deny this report. Likewise, the U.S. Embassy in Managua today denied U.S. helicopters were used to carry El Chacal to Honduran territory.

El Chacal entered Honduran territory given the EPS persecution. The Honduran Armed Forces have denied reports about El Chacal's presence on their territory. Meanwhile, El Chacal's men issued a communique, published by newspapers in Tegucigalpa, denying his presence in the neighboring country. They said he is in Nicaragua fighting against the Nicaraguan forces.

[Begin Lieutenant Colonel Ricardo Wheelock, EPS spokesman, recording] The troops pursuing El Chacal clashed with his forces in the La Pulgosa sector and he entered Honduran territory through Boca de Arenales, a former base of the Pedro Joaquin Gonzalez Regional Commando. El Chacal has used this as a support base to introduce weapons, boots, uniforms, ammunition, food, and medicine to the area of Quilali. Our troops saw El Chacal cross the Peteca River and enter Boca de Arenales—there is a Honduran Army post right there. He was later taken inside Honduran territory. [end recording]

Meanwhile, the U.S. Embassy in Nicaragua issued a press note denying reports that a U.S. military helicopter was used to transfer El Chacal deep into Honduran territory. REUTER News Agency said the information on the helicopter was based on an anonymous communique sent by fax to the Nicaraguan media.

The EPS also denied a violation of Honduran airspace and the alleged information that an area had been strafed by Nicaraguan Air Force airplanes—as reported by Honduran media.

[Begin Wheelock recording] The Air Force has no planes. A small observation airplane, which carries no weapons, flew over the area but never came closer then 3.5 km from the border. The small airplane never entered Honduran territory. [end recording]

According to Lt. Col. Wheelock, military intelligence officials of the two countries are in constant contact. He ruled out any type of confrontation as a result of this situation.

Furthermore, the EPS confirmed 40 of the 150 refugees living in Honduras have already returned to Nicaragua. They are currently in the Planes de Juanito zone.

* Republic of China Finances Pig Farming Project

94P20044A

[Editorial Report] Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish of 27 September 1993 on page 3 reports that the Republic of China recently approved an additional $230,000 to its initial investment of $278,600 made one year ago in the experimental pig farm set up in Cofradia. The article reports that this farm is Nicaragua's "leading supplier" of pork for general distribution and sausage-packing plants. Ministry of Agriculture specialists report that the country has 400,000 pigs, of which 25,000 are bred on pig farms.

MDN, PSD Form Alliance

94P20044B

[Editorial Report] Managua EL SEMANARIO in Spanish of 30 September-6 October 1993 on page 3 reports that the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement (MDN) and the Democratic Social Party (PSD) have agreed to join forces and form a single Democratic Socialist bench in the National Assembly. According to the article, "Luis Sanchez (former socialist), Ubaldo Rios (former conservative), and Moises Hassan (former Sandinist and former MUR [Movement of Revolutionary Unity] member)...deputies who for one reason or another were expelled from their parties...joined the Democratic Socialists" from the PSD and MDN who now are members of a unified delegation. The other members are Alfredo Cesar, Adolfo Jarquin, Santos Tijerino, and Adan Morales (PSD) and Roberto Urroz, Zacarias Hernandez, and Daniel Blandon (MDN). As a result there are currently 10 Democrat Socialists in the assembly, the article explains, as opposed to nine Christian Democrats, although technically the two groups are currently tied because Alfredo Cesar has been temporarily suspended from Assembly activities.

* Plans To Export Onions to Mexico Reported

94P20044C

[Editorial Report] Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish of 5 October 1993 on page 13 reports that the Ministry of Agriculture (MAG) is planning to begin exporting 50,000 quintals of onions to Mexico this year, which will generate $1 million. Exports to Central America currently total 25,000 quintals. The MAG reports that 450 manzanas are planted in onions, primarily in the Sebaco Valley. According to the Association of Growers of Nontraditional Crops, Nicaraguan exporters of yellow onions earn profits topping $3,000 per manzana cultivated.

Panama

Endara To Name New Foreign Minister, Other Cabinet Members

PA2910010493 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Oct 93

[From the "RPC Television News" newscast]

[Text] Fellow television viewers, President Guillermo Endara, who is currently in Guatemala participating in a Central American economic integration summit, stated that on 1 November he will announce a cabinet reshuffle that will include the appointment of Jose Raul Mulino as foreign minister. Mulino was a deputy foreign minister up until three months ago when he submitted his resignation. According to President Endara, he will take advantage of the occasion to announce the resignation of five other cabinet ministers.

Former Police Chief Asvat Found Unharmed

PA2810125493 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0546 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Panama City, 28 Oct (ACAN - EFE)—Former Police Chief Ebrahim Asvat, who was kidnapped on the night of 27 October by four unidentified armed men, turned up today apparently unharmed on a road on the outskirts of Panama City, police sources confirmed.

According to preliminary reports by authorities, who did not explain how the kidnapping concluded, Asvat stayed in an undisclosed location for six hours and was later taken by some private citizens to a police precinct on the outskirts of Panama City.

Court Sentences Suspended Attorney General to Prison

PA2810221493 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2125 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Resolute portion of Supreme Court of Justice ruling dated 28 October, issued by the Supreme Court plenum on the trial of suspended Attorney General Rogelio Cruz; read by Supreme Court Secretary Carlos Cuestas at the Supreme Court building in Panama City—live]

[Text] Thus, the plenum of the Supreme Court of Justice, administering justice on behalf of the Republic and by authority of the law, sentences Rogelio Cruz Rios—married Panamanian male, lawyer, with personal identification No. 8-101-269, who resides in San Francisco de la Caleta, 73th Street, House No. 15—to a 12-month prison sentence and disqualifies him from holding public office for the same period, due to the crime of abuse of authority as stated and punishable by Article 336 of the Penal Code; the plenum also acquits him of the charge of illegal removal of documents from public offices.

Based on the power granted to justice tribunals by Article 77 of the Penal Code, in view of the quantum [previous word in English] of the sentence imposed and of the personal qualities and background of the person receiving the sentence, the execution date is conditionally suspended for two years beginning on the execution date of this sentence.

Unifying Counternarcotics Laws Proposed

PA2810180593 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 26 Oct 93 p 8-C

[Article by Juan Pritsiolas]

[Text] At a session of the OAS Inter-American Commission for the Control and Abuse of Drugs (CICAD), Attorney General Jorge Valdes has proposed that the countries of the region unify their laws against drug trafficking and money laundering.

While delivering a report before the session, Valdes proposed "firm steps to unify the criminal laws" of our nations.

Valdes also urged the countries of the region to promote a "social consciousness against drugs" through specialized education and a massive public awareness program.

Valdes emphasized that international cooperation is necessary for an effective campaign against drug trafficking. He revealed that Panama has carried out a "significant number" of joint operations with the DEA, Interpol, and the German Police.

Tomorrow, Valdes will present a report to the UN plenum on the Panamanian fight against drug trafficking.

The attorney general will describe efforts by the Central American countries to stop this scourge.

Valdes recently met with Jorge Carpizo, his Mexican counterpart, to discuss mutual legal assistance issues, among them the transfer of convicted persons from one country to the other.

Argentina

Economy Minister Says Trade Deficit 'Not Worrisome'

PY2810130893 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1246 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Campana, Buenos Aires Province, 27 Oct (NA)—Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo has stressed that the trade balance deficit "is not worrisome" and that it may last some time "as long as the capital account's positive balance is maintained."

The economy minister emphasized: "As long as capital, instead of leaving, returns to Argentina we will be able to achieve a level of investments during that period higher than domestic savings. We will be able to grow, and improve the well-being of our families."

Cavallo later discussed the nonparticipation of seven provinces in the new Federal Pact for Growth, Production, and Employment [Pacto Federal para el Crecimiento, la Produccion y el Empleo]. He pointed out: "It will be advantageous for all of them to sign the fiscal pact because it will represent increased federal shared benefits and more employment for them after provincial and national employment is removed. Investments and employment and production growth are encouraged."

The economy minister added: "The provinces will receive the benefits as soon as they join the federal pact. We actually require congressional sanction of the federal pact so as to transform it into a national law, and the approval of the provincial legislatures as the provinces join in."

Concerning a recent meeting with metalworkers union leaders, Cavallo said: "The UOM [Metalworkers Union] leaders stress that wages already have increased. They say that, since convertibility was implemented, the average wage increases reached 58 percent, but the basic [collective bargaining] agreement wages, except for the car manufacturing area, have not increased at all since March 1991."

The economy minister reported that the UOM leaders actually proposed adjusting the basic agreement wages, including the increases already granted by each enterprise." [no opening quotation marks as received]

In this regard, Cavallo added: "We believe this is something that workers and employers must agree upon through the collective bargaining mechanisms, which should not have any impact on the labor costs of enterprises."

Readdressing the trade balance issue, the economy minister said: "Exports are increasing. This represents a very good sign because it also increases domestic consumption and investments. For exports to increase, the production of export goods must increase above the levels of increased consumption and increased investments." Cavallo said: "The high level of imports is linked to the high level of investments, and this is good news."

The economy minister indicated: "Only those who still imagine an Argentina that does not export what is not sold on the domestic market and families' standard of living is becoming increasingly worse have the idea, as in the past, of viewing the trade balance as a negative sign."

In conclusion, Cavallo stressed: "When a country has a high level of investments and imports, it is because it is growing, and it can finance the high level of investments because it is trustworthy and foreign capital enters."

Cavallo made these remarks yesterday while visiting the ESSO refinery in the town of Campana in Buenos Aires Province, where he toured the facilities and lectured at the ESSO 2000 Investments Plan, a plan that contemplates investments of $90 million per year until the end of the century.

Concerning his visit, Cavallo pointed out: "It is encouraging to see how private enterprises are responding to this new atmosphere created by the deregulation measures, such as those implemented in the hydrocarbons and maritime transportation areas, and the reduction in production costs, which creates job openings."

The economy minister added: "We have seen this here today, reflected by this important distillery where tasks have just been completed to allow increased production capacity, increased operation safety, and improved treatment of effluents, thus contributing to protecting the environment. All this is very encouraging."

UCR Leader, Cordoba Governor Discuss Plebiscite, Elections

PY2810233993 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1206 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Oct (NA)—Cordoba Governor Eduardo Angeloz has informed Mario Losada, president of the Radical Civic Union [UCR] National Committee, that he is in favor of "passive abstention" in the plebiscite called by the government to reform the Constitution, because "it is a harmless exercise which fails to demonstrate the appropriateness of, need for, or substance" for the modification of the Constitution.

Angeloz held a 45-minute meeting with Losada starting at 1900 yesterday. He told him that although he has already adopted a position regarding the plebiscite, "I will not influence the decision the national deputies must adopt. I will not beat about the bush, because the deputies are responding to the party line," Angeloz told journalists who interviewed him at UCR National Committee headquarters.

Asked about Rio Negro Governor Horacio Massaccesi, Angeloz replied that his Patagonian region counterpart "responds to regional demands and pressure." About his possible candidacy for the 1995 presidential elections, he said: "I do not know if I will be a candidate, although

everyone is saying so." Nonetheless, he conditioned his definitive answer to "the unification of ideas and proposals in the party."

Asked about the possibility of modifying the date for the installation of the National Committee members, Angeloz said: "All steps must be analyzed with the delegates." Regarding this issue, Losada added that "there is still no answer" to President Raul Alfonsin's request.

Losada said that realistically speaking, the UCR National Committee lacks the resources to implement a campaign on the plebiscite.

He said it "would be utopian to talk about campaigns, because we have certain economic difficulties." Losada reported that on 28 October, with the agreement of the district presidents, the National Committee will adopt a resolution about the plebiscite, although whatever is decided at this plenum will have to follow the doctrinaire position to be adopted by the UCR convention on 29 October.

Bolivia

Lawmakers Protest 'Unauthorized' Arrival of U.S. Troops

PY2810130693 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Excerpts] National Congress representatives said the government is adopting unauthorized measures regarding the admittance into the country of a new group of U.S. soldiers.

Chamber of Deputies President Guillermo Bedregal and opposition Deputy Gonzalo Balda pointed out that they have been informed of the arrival of a new contingent of 48 U.S. soldiers. They added that the government must explain this fact.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified congressmen] We were informed at a plenum session of the presence of U.S. troops [words indistinct]. Everyone knows it is necessary and indispensable to obtain authorization from the national Congress for the presence of U.S. troops [words indistinct] because what we are doing is to request an official information from the [word indistinct] Ministry. [Passage indistinct] to learn the truth about this fact [words indistinct] international jurisdiction. [end recording]

Here is a live report from Santa Cruz:

Senate President Juan Carlos Duran has deemed the weekly (AQUI) a pamphlet in which corrupt people seek protection. [passage omitted]

Asked about the admittance into the country of a group of U.S. military advisers, Duran said he knew nothing about the issue. He said he will investigate this possibility because, if it is true, their admittance will have been illegal. [passage omitted]

DEA, Dinaco Members Clash With Coca Growers in Chapare

PY2810153093 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Members of the National Coca Control Directorate, Dinaco; the Drug Enforcement Agency, DEA; and coca growers from the (Villa 14) and (Eterasana) areas clashed in the last few hours in Tropical Chapare. As a result, two Dinaco vehicles have been practically destroyed. The coca growers became furious when they saw DEA agents break into the (Villa 14) and (Eteresana) markets to prevent coca from being sold there.

Coca growers said this situation is a sort of constant threat and demanded that the government talk with them as soon as possible to prevent further consequences.

Brazil

Officials Oppose U.S. Pressures To Open Financial Market

PY2810181793 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE S.IO PAULO in Portuguese 21 Oct 93 p B4

[Article by Nelson Luiz de Oliveira]

[Text] Brasilia—The United States will face a lot of opposition to the pressures for opening the Brazilian financial market. The last time the issue was discussed by the Brazilian Foreign Ministry and Central Bank, it was established that the Brazilian Government will only commit itself to not increasing current restrictions. Jeffrey Shafer, the assistant secretary for international affairs at the U.S. Treasury Department, will visit Brazil in November to bring a very clear message: Those countries that do not open their financial markets to American banks will have the activities of their banks in the United States restricted.

Article 192 of the Constitution, whose implementation has been delayed for more than two years, states that a complementary law must establish the conditions for the participation of foreign capital in financial instituiions based in Brazil. Until the complementary law is promulgated, temporary constitutional Article 52 prohibits the opening of new foreign bank agencies in Brazil and a percentage increase in foreign capital in banks in Brazil. Today this percentage cannot be more than 50 percent of the total capital and 30 percent of the voting stock.

In compliance with the Constitution, restrictions on the opening of new foreign bank agencies can only be lifted for reciprocal international agreements or the Brazilian Government's interests.

A Central Bank source reported that a new reciprocal agreement may be discussed between Brazil and the United Sates. It added that any progress regarding the measures in force will be limited.

Financial experts state that the opening being announced by the American market authorizing the opening of Brazilian banks will not expedite Brazilian banks' transactions. In addition to having little to offer in terms of new market opportunities, the United States will continue to enforce harsh control demands on foreign bank institutions. These security regulations jeopardize the permanence of Brazilian banks in the United States.

Official Says Trade Surplus 'Very Comfortable' After Drop

PY2810165693 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 27 Oct 93 p B8

[Text] Brasilia—The Brazilian trade surplus in September was $1.215 billion, i.e., 12.02 percent lower than the trade surplus during the same period in 1992. Comparing the two periods, we realize that exports increased 14 percent in 1993 and totalled $3.445 billion, while imports increased 35.89 percent and totalled $2.230 billion. Industry, Trade and Tourism Minister Jose Andrade Vieira said: "The goal is to have monthly surpluses between $500 million and $800 million."

"Brazil does not need higher surpluses. The current level leaves the country in a very comfortable situation," he added. According to Vieira, exchange reserves are close to $27 billion, which exceeds the level required to make foreign debt payments. As a result, he believes part of the reserves should be used to finance goods and services exports.

From January to September, the accumulated surplus totalled $10.277 billion, i.e., 9.02 percent less than the $11.296 billion collected during the same period in 1992. Added up, imports and exports increased 17.57 percent in 1993 and reached the record level of $47.605 billion. Accumulated exports and imports—$28.941 billion and $18.664 billion, respectively—are also record sums.

Soybean bran exports increased 34 percent; coffee, 240 percent; flat laminates, 65 percent; orange juice, 46 percent; and poultry meat, 66 percent. In the field of imports, the most imported items were capital goods, raw material, and cars.

New Colombian Cocaine Cartel, Route Discovered

PY2810145093 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Report by unidentified Rede Globo reporter]

[Text] A new Colombian drug cartel has been discovered. This cartel uses Brazil as route to export tonnes of cocaine. The base of operations is the town of Leticia, on the border between the two countries.

The danger of this new cartel lies on this street. Leticia, capital of the Colombian Amazonas, is on the Colombian side, while Tabatinga, in western Amazonas State, is on the other side. Federal Police are afraid to enter here because, like myself, any individual can freely cross the dry border line.

To film this video I faked being a tourist, using an amateur video recorder. In addition to the mansions, what attracts the most attention here are the exchange offices, one after the other. These exchange offices move some $2 million weekly. This represents approximately 340 million real cruzeiros, but the town has no industries and the stores are practically empty.

[Begin Amazonas Federal Police Superintendent Mauro Sposito recording] The arrests carried out and the existence of powerful economic groups in the region prove the existence of a criminal organization we have to fight effectively. [end recording]

Federal Police have learned that this new cartel already has transported at least 10 metric tons of cocaine via the Solimoes River. The drug is taken from Leticia by boat to Suriname, and from there it is taken to Europe and the United States.

Today the Solimoes River has been closed by a floating Federal Police station, and the U.S. Army—which is helping fight drugs in Colombia—has installed a super radar in Leticia capable of tracking air space within a radius of 100 kms.

The discovery of the Leticia cartel has left the Amazonas Federal Police superintendency in a state of alert. Federal Police agents believe there are Brazilians involved in this new cartel. They also believe in the existence of poppy plantations—the raw material for heroin—and in the existence of laboratories on both sides. For this reason Federal Police have signed agreements with Colombian authorities to exchange information and try to neutralize the traffickers' actions.

Loan on Sino-Brazilian Satellite Signed; Minister to Travel

PY2910005593 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Report by journalist (Arlette Milhomem)]

[Text] Science and Technology Minister Israel Vargas and Bank of Brazil Chairman Alcir Calliari today signed an agreement for $21 million toward the construction of a satellite that will photograph the Earth, thus providing cartography information and data to the National Weather Forecasting Center [Centro Nacional de Previsao do Tempo].

This represents a small portion of the $150 million needed for the Sino-Brazilian satellite program signed

between the Chinese and Brazilian Governments. The program foresees China contributing $100 million and Brazil putting up the rest.

The satellite will be launched from China in 1996. It will weigh one metric ton, 10 times the weight of all Brazilian equipment currently in orbit.

Minister Israel Vargas said this credit line with the Bank of Brazil will speed up the project and prevent delays.

[Begin Vargas recording] This will help the implementation timetable and will prevent delays in the launching because the privatization funds, a portion of which are for this satellite, depend on the approval of a law in Congress to open a supplementary credit. [end recording]

The minister will leave tomorrow for China where he will reach agreement on the cost and details of the launching of the Sino-Brazilian satellite. Payments will be made with Brazilian products.

During his meeting with Bank of Brazil Chairman Alcir Calliari, Minister Israel Vargas added that the Chamber of Deputies has approved a project on the establishment of the Brazilian Space Agency [Agencia Espacial Brasileira] as part of a program of the Aeronautics Ministry, the Science and Technology Ministry, and the Armed Forces General Staff.

Chile

Peruvian Minister Arrives To Discuss Joint Fishing Strategy

PY2910020493 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2245 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Santiago, 24 Oct (EFE)—Peruvian Fishing Minister Jaime Sobero Taiba has arrived in Chile on a five-day official visit to discuss with local fishing officials a joint strategy for fishing development.

The Peruvian minister explained that Chile and Peru will develop a common strategy to protect their fishing resources from the large powers at international forums, and to improve their ability to exploit and penetrate international markets. [passage omitted]

Minister Sobero will stay one week in Chile, following an official program prepared by the Fishing Undersecretariat headed by Andres Couve.

According to the Chilean official, Peru is worried about limiting its fishing production so as to improve the price of these products on the international market. Peru has just implemented a two-month ban on the fishing of pelagic species, especially anchovies and sardines.

During his stay in Chile, Sobero will exchange information with his Chilean counterparts on development models, the movement of the pelagic species that live off the coasts of the two countries, and shared sea resources.

The high-ranking Peruvian official confirmed that it is necessary for the two countries to take a joint stance at international forums in defense of their resources, threatened by the impositions "of the large powers, the bloc of Asian countries, or the large EEC countries."

The Peruvian official charged that these nations intend to impose new forms of managing fishing resources, as well as agreements to legalize the "introduction of fishing fleets."

Andres Couve has reported that Chile hopes to increase its fishing area beyond the 200-mile territorial sea, an issue that will be included in the discussions with the Peruvians.

In remarks reported today, Minister Sobero added that the government of President Alberto Fujimori hopes that by the first half of 1994 the fishing sector will be in the hands of the Peruvian private sector and foreign investors.

The high-ranking Peruvian official, who arrived in the Chilean capital on 23 October, will have a busy agenda, including various activities in various Chilean regions.

Colombia

Foreign Minister Comments on Restoration of Ties With Cuba

PA2910005793 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Oct 93

[From the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] Attention. Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin announced a few minutes ago that Colombia will resume diplomatic relations with Cuba; the exact date will soon be announced. Relations between the two countries were broken on 23 March 1981 because the Cuban Government trained, financed, and equipped guerrillas in the then 19 April Movement [M-19] to fight in Colombia. We are in touch with the Foreign Ministry via microwave communications. Come in, Azucena Lievano.

[Lievano] Good evening. We are at the Foreign Ministry with Foreign Minister Sanin, who has a last minute report. Madame Minister, what is this all about?

[Sanin] Good evening. In 1981, Cuba intervened in Colombia's internal affairs by supplying arms to the then M-19, which is now a political movement. After investigation and analysis, we have concluded that Cuba no longer finances or trains Colombian guerrillas and no longer sponsors armed rebellion. In addition, and through dialogue, we favor respecting Cuba's internal affairs, the people's self-determination, and a peaceful solution to conflicts, stimulating political and economic reforms that can lead Cuba to full democracy.

[Lievano] Does this mean we have already re-established diplomatic relations with Cuba?

[Sanin] Yes. We reached this agreement today.

[Lievano] When will this agreement be signed?

[Sanin] Well, Colombia will simply appoint its representative to Cuba, and Cuba will appoint its representative to Colombia.

[Lievano] Who will sign the agreement, you or the president of the Republic?

[Sanin] No signature is required. We have made a decision and will make the corresponding appointments, that's all.

[Lievano] Has the ambassador already been identified?

[Sanin] No, we have not yet decided on that.

[Lievano] Mr. Minister, what can you tell us about the shipment of drugs to Poland through the Embassy?

[Sanin] The prosecutor general today reported that an investigation is being conducted at the Colombian Embassy in Poland. Cocaine was shipped to Poland but not by Foreign Ministry officials. No Foreign Ministry officials are reportedly involved in the incident. But a Colombian woman has been arrested. There is also a curious coincidence of a man of the same name who works for another embassy. All seems to indicate that this person has nothing to do with the case. But we are not a judicial organization. Therefore, I am turning this information over to the Prosecutor General's Office.

Communique Issued

PA2910020893 Paris AFP in Spanish 0106 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 28 Oct (AFP)—On 28 October, Colombia announced that it had reestablished diplomatic relations with Cuba but that this decision is not linked to an assessment of the domestic policy of Fidel Castro's government. Relations between the two countries were broken off in 1981 by Colombia, which accused Cuba of aiding the Colombian guerrillas.

In a news conference, Colombian Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin de Rubio said the reestablishment of diplomatic ties with Cuba does not entail approval or support for Castro's government, adding that this decision is part of Colombia's policy of universalization and international opening. This is the text of the communique announcing the normalization of relations:

1. The Colombian Government today decided to reestablish diplomatic relations with Cuba on a date that will soon be determined by mutual agreement. Diplomatic ties were severed on 23 March 1981 "because Cuba meddled in Colombia's internal affairs by training and equipping militants of the 19 April Movement. [no closing quotation marks as received]

2. On 19 July 1991, the Colombian Government started a gradual and cautious normalization of relations with Cuba. On this date, and within the framework of the First Ibero-American Summit held in Guadalajara, Mexico, the Colombian and Cuban Governments agreed to reestablish consular relations between the two countries.

3. On the occasion of the Group of Three presidents meeting held in Cozumel on 23 October 1991—a meeting to which Castro was invited—the presidents of Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela agreed to work for the prompt and full reintegration of Cuba into the Latin American community on the basis of reforms in terms of political participation. They also offered their good offices to start a rapprochement that would lead to the normalization of their relations based on respect for their legitimate interests and strict compliance with international law.

4. The decision to reestablish diplomatic relations is another step in the aforementioned normalization process. The Colombian Government has made this decision based on the fact that it is fully convinced that there is no link between the Cuban Government and the Colombian guerrillas and that the Cuban Government does not support the armed struggle in Colombia.

5. This decision is completely compatible with the tradition to universalize our diplomatic relations, and it falls within the spirit of pluralism contained within the OAS Charter.

6. Colombia, as other countries in the world, maintains diplomatic relations with states that hold different ideological convictions, including some that have political systems that differ from Western democracy. This does not mean that it promotes [promueva] the internal regimes of such countries or their foreign policies. This involves relations among states.

7. The decision to reestablish diplomatic relations with Cuba is not unique [exotica] in Latin America. Colombia is the sole country of the Group of Three, and one of the few in the region, that does not maintain diplomatic relations with Cuba. This does not convey a message or place a value judgment on Cuba's domestic situation or internal political affairs.

8. The Colombian Government renews its commitment to promote democracy in the hemisphere, and it voices its hope that the Cuban people will follow the path that will lead to the prevailing of civil liberties, democratic development, and implementation of economic reforms to establish a market economy.

Politicians React

PA2910045493

[Editorial Report] Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish at 0000 GMT on 29 October broadcasts, within its "24 Hours Newscast," reaction from several politicians to the Colombian Government's decision to reestablish diplomatic relations with Cuba.

Former President Julio Cesar Turbay, during whose administration relations with Cuba were broken, says

that "if President Gaviria, as director of our foreign relations and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, thinks that the reasons that led to the suspension of such relations no longer exist, I have no objections." Asked whether he thinks the reasons that led to the suspension have ceased to exists, Turbay replies: "I do not have access to the same facts as the president in formulating an opinion. The president is obviously better informed."

Former President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen, a member of the Advisory Committee on Foreign Relations, says: "I must admit I was caught completely by surprise. The Advisory Committee on Foreign Relations held a meeting about eight days ago, and we had no inkling that relations with Cuba would be reestablished. It is obvious that the leadership of our foreign policy is completely in the hands of the president of the Republic and that the Advisory Committee on Foreign Relations is simply a consultative body whose opinions in no way bind the president, whom I repeat is the supreme director of foreign relations." Lopez Michelsen adds: "I do not think that Colombia made this decision without consulting its partners in foreign policy, namely Mexico and Venezuela in the Group of Three, and possibly also after consulting its Rio Group partners."

Senator Enrique Gomez Hurtado says that "at last we know what he came for [referring to Castro's visit to Cartagena]. Castro is responsible for a great deal of bloodshed in Colombia, and blood continues to flow. The president owes the people an explanation for this betrayal of the thousands of Colombians murdered by order of our new friend."

Conservative Party presidential hopeful Rodrigo Marin says: "This decision serves Castro better than Gaviria." Meanwhile, Conservative Party presidential hopeful Gabriel Melo Guevara says: "Castro, the big backer of the guerrillas, has never shown any concern for the life of innocent Colombians. Now, when his country is in full decline, he is indeed interested in our oil. The government is playing into his hands by reestablishing diplomatic relations as soon as he requested it."

Antonio Navarro Wolff, who was leader of the 19 April Movement when Colombia suspended relations with Cuba in 1981 because of Fidel Castro's support for this group, says "that is good news because the transition in Cuba from socialism to a market economy needs help from people like the Colombian Government to ensure that the transition is well handled, that it will not be traumatic, and that will be good for all Latin America." When asked by a reporter whether this is a good thing for Colombia, Navarro Wolff replies: "To the extent that Latin America handles its problems on its own, I think this is good for all Latin American countries and good for Colombia."

The reporter reminds Navarro Wolff that Castro supported the Colombian guerrillas and thus caused many deaths in the country. The former guerrilla leader replies: "That's in the past. Castro's future will be very different. I think that in the same way that there was a peace process here, it is worthwhile for us to try to help Cuba ensure that its transition to a market economy is done in an orderly and constructive fashion."

Presidential hopeful Ernesto Samper says that "this is in keeping with the long pluralist tradition of Colombia. I welcome the reestablishment if it is really beneficial and will reduce past tension in relations between the two countries."

Former Ambassador to Cuba Ramiro Andrade says that "we could understand this government decision if it involved a Colombian mediatory role to reestablish public freedoms and seek a peaceful solution to the Cuban crisis. This could be justified—some people think—if Castro also contributes to the country's pacification by mediating with the Colombian guerrillas. If neither of these is forecast—and President Gaviria should let us know—it would not be by any means justifiable to prop up a tyrannical regime that is undoubtedly subjugating the Cuban people."

Brother of Escobar Aide Kidnapped, Killed

PA2810170793 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1718 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Medellin, 26 Oct (EFE)—Rafael Alberto Avendano, brother of alleged drug trafficker Jorge Eduardo (Tato) Avendano, who is a trusted aide of fugitive drug trafficker Pablo Escobar Gaviria, was kidnapped and later killed in Medellin, Antioquia Department, Colombian authorities reported on 26 October.

Avendano's body was found on Las Palmas Avenue. Although the motive for the crime is unknown, the authorities believe it is a vendetta involving drug trafficking gangs. According to authorities, Avendano was tortured and shot.

Several relatives and close friends of Pablo Escobar's lieutenants have been killed in recent months, and the group "Los Pepes" (Persecuted by Pablo Escobar) made up of former allies of the Medellin Cartel boss has been accused of some of those murders.

Jorge Eduardo Avendano surrendered to authorities for the first time on 27 June 1991 and was one of the people who escaped from jail with Escobar on 22 July 1992. Hounded by the authorities and his enemies, he surrendered for a second time last September and is now at the Itagui maximum security prison near Medellin.

Officials Vow Not To Pardon Drug Traffickers

PA2910003093 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 23 Oct 93 p 14A

[Unattributed article—all quotation marks as published]

[Text] The possibility of drug traffickers surrendering to the authorities yesterday created quiet expectation among government spokesmen and led the Prosecutor

General's Office and Attorney General's Office to warn that, no matter what happens, there will be no pardons for drug traffickers.

A large group of drug traffickers—approximately 300 who claim to oversee 70 percent of the cocaine exported to the United States and Europe—sent five messages to Congress on 21 October, offering to dismantle their drug businesses and surrender to authorities if they are not forced to confess or become informants.

The drug traffickers' offer created a controversy among state officials who insisted "anyone who believes it is simply a matter of leaving the business, surrendering to the authorities, and then going home is mistaken."

According to Attorney General Carlos Gustavo Arrieta: "If their offer to surrender is honest, it must be accompanied by a confession. In other words, drug traffickers must acknowledge the illegality of their actions."

Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff spoke along these same lines: "There will be no pardon for drug traffickers."

President Cesar Gaviria, who warned that the authenticity of the messages sent to Congress will have to be verified, said the current policy of surrender is "suitable and sufficient," and his Justice Minister Andres Gonzalez said it is impossible to discuss the matter in general terms.

"Any plan to surrender to the authorities must be examined and evaluated in a special, individual manner by the Prosecutor General's Office, keeping in mind the events and circumstances surrounding each case," Gonzalez said.

Nevertheless, government spokesmen explained that the bill to reform the Penal Procedural Code, which is currently being debated at Congress, involves various benefits which, ironically, may ultimately meet certain mafia demands.

In fact, the drug traffickers asked Congress to revive Decree 264, which the Constitutional Court declared invalid and which features provisions ranging from total forgiveness to the eradication of criminal records. It also allows for the possibility of house arrest in cases involving jail terms of less than eight years.

Today, in practice, such possibilities are contained in the draft bill to reform the Penal Procedural Code, and these could end up being applied to drug traffickers.

In turn, the bill currently being debated in Congress provides various benefits for "voluntary separation from a criminal organization by one or several of its members," as well as for "helping the authorities break up or undermine a criminal organization, capture one or a number of its members, or restore legal order and social tranquility."

How would such benefits be applied? For the time being, the statements made yesterday regarding the drug traffickers' proposal could have resulted from the current debate on these benefits.

As the attorney general, I would say the first thing we must do is confirm the authenticity of these messages. I must also point out that I believe the policy of surrender is appropriate and has proven its worth, despite the difficulties it has encountered.

First of all, I believe the mechanisms established in the policy, including confession, the negotiation of sentences, and protection of the lives of those who surrender, are very appropriate mechanisms. Nevertheless, on this occasion it will be up to the ministers, prosecutor general, and attorney general, once authenticity has been established, to verify whether, in fact, there are Colombian groups involved in criminal activities or drug trafficking who want to surrender to justice.

So far, it seems to me that (the policy of surrender) is sufficient and valid and provides broad guarantees for surrender to Colombian justice by groups of people who have been involved in criminal activities.

The decrees that were already declared invalid by the court—decrees which had previously been confirmed by the Special Legislative Commission—are enough to encourage drug traffickers and other types of criminals to surrender to justice.

I would say the good thing about the policy is the fact that eventually certain people will submit themselves to justice.

As long as the traffickers' proposals or motivations are not surrounded by intimidation or attempts to compromise our laws on public order when they are applied in specific situations, I see no problem.

Attorney General Arrieta yesterday described the latest surrender proposal by drug cartel spokesmen as vague and confusing.

"They cannot simply say that now they want to be exemplary citizens and ask the state to completely forget their backgrounds, because, first, being an exemplary citizen is both a constitutional and legal duty. Second, the desire to surrender should be accompanied by their acknowledgement of having committed crimes."

According to the attorney general, to expect that the law will "not force drug traffickers to confess to at least one crime is to destroy the policy of surrender, inasmuch as it is necessary to give something in exchange for what one receives. That something cannot simply be an offer to fulfill a duty they already have an obligation to fulfill.

"Any common criminal can appear before the authorities to inquire where there are any charges pending against him. If there are none, he can be at ease. A policy of surrender under these conditions is not really surrender, because the state must prove that these people

are guilty. What do they offer in exchange? Offering to dismantle criminal organizations is important, and, without a doubt, the state should take this into consideration, but it should not be viewed as a legal offer. "If the desire to surrender is sincere, it should be accompanied by the concurrence that they acted against the law," Arrieta said.

Meanwhile, Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff Restrepo said there will be no pardon for drug traffickers who have offered to surrender to justice.

De Greiff said that the 300 people who have stated their willingness to turn themselves over to the authorities should do so within the established legal framework and should not seek special treatment. This should be done within the context of the current policy of surrender. He added, however, that should the Legislative Assembly establish different methods, judicial authorities will proceed in accordance with the new laws.

De Greiff said his office is prepared for a massive surrender of drug traffickers. Nevertheless, he added: "We must see if those people really want to surrender to justice."

Justice Minister Andres Gonzalez Diaz said the current policy of surrender should be consolidated and strengthened. Congressional approval of the amendments to the Penal Procedural Code is essential. Those amendments include authorizing the prosecutor general to determine the benefits to be granted, depending on the degree of cooperation with justice.

The prosecutor general should study and evaluate each case of willingness to surrender to justice separately and individually, taking into consideration the particular facts and circumstances of each case, he added.

Only an analysis by the Prosecutor General to determine the degree of cooperation with justice, within the strict framework of the law, can define each specific case, he stressed.

Until we know the exact scope and contents of each request and who the person involved is, we cannot make any statement, Gonzalez concluded.

Juan Gabriel Tokatlian of the University of Los Andes said that the letters propose a reduction in the penalties and conditions for the drug traffickers' surrender. He added that, in his opinion, the policy of surrender should be maintained.

The proposals from the cartels would have made sense if the process of surrender definitely includes the mechanisms to dismantle the business. First, unless there is certainty that the drug trafficking business will be dismantled, it will not disappear; second, the government could face hundreds of cases similar to the Pablo Escobar case; and third, it will be very difficult for the international community to understand what Colombia is doing unless there is a real reduction, not only of violence, but of the drug trafficking business.

List of Demands

Spokesmen from five drug cartels representing approximately 300 drug traffickers in various parts of the country have presented to the government and Congress a list of demands, including the elimination of confession, reinstating laws declared unconstitutional, and conditional implementation of sentences.

Here are the demands:

Confession: The drug traffickers believe that a policy of surrender cannot be based on self-confession of crimes. The state must prove that someone is guilty, instead of a person presenting evidence against himself.

Sentences: Sentences that carry jail terms of less than eight years should have the benefit of conditional implementation, and, in special cases, they should offer the possibility of house arrest. In addition, the drug traffickers contend, a person should not be under arrest indefinitely. If there is evidence, he should be tried, but if there is only an accusation, he should be released.

Providing Information: They disagree with providing information against members of their organizations.

Decree 264: They propose reactivating instruments in this decree that were declared invalid by the Constitutionality Court. The law gave the prosecutor general broad authority to negotiate with criminals who surrender to justice and cooperate effectively to disband criminal organizations.

Council, Parties Agree on Campaign Spending Limits

PA2910005893 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 23 Oct 93 p 7A

[Text] For the first time in the country's history, the costs of a political campaign will have a limit: 100 million pesos for each list of candidates registered in the Senate. Also, political organizations representatives, based on their own experience, placed an expense ceiling of 70 million pesos for each list of aspirants to the Chamber of Representatives. This was the agreement reached yesterday between the National Electoral Council [CNE] and representatives of political parties and movements to jointly establish spending limits for 1994 election campaigns.

The measure is an attempt not only to reduce the cost of the political competition, but also to prevent funds from questionable sources to start filling the parties' and movements' coffers. "This is a task in which we hope to receive the cooperation of the candidates themselves, because we want to have not only as much clarity as possible, but also a thorough contest in terms of ideas, not in costs," CNE President Liliam Suarez Melo stated. The official explained, however, that it is the CNE's responsibility to make a final decision on the expense limits, although none of the participants at the meeting opposed the amounts established. The CNE president

also pointed out that the established limits were made for lists and not for candidates because, generally, the heads of lists are the ones who campaign. If limits were set for each candidate, it would turn the process into a "dance of millions," she added.

They still have to establish the date in which the ceiling control goes into effect. For some, it is clear that the limits have to go into effect when a particular movement or party starts its campaign. Others believe they should go into effect when the lists are officially registered.

Most Expensive Items

The meeting with the CNE officials was attended by spokesmen of the Liberal Party, Conservative Party, 19 April Movement Democratic Alliance, Patriotic Union, C-4 Christian Movement [Movimiento Cristiano C-4], and the Progressive National Movement [Movimiento Nacional Progresista], among others.

Most of the political representatives agreed in warning that transportation, publicity, and office rentals are the most expensive items in any campaign. The C-4 Christian Movement representative stated that at least 70 percent of his movement's campaign resources are specifically used to cover publicity expenses. Liberal Party spokesman Ariel Armel made the following percentage estimate of expenses for each political campaign: 25 percent for transportation, 20 percent for publicity, and the rest to cover office rentals, the working "staff" [preceding word in English] that accompanies each candidate, postal services, and election day expenses.

The case of publicity billboards was studied in detail. According to the spokesmen, each billboard costs an average of 500,000 pesos a month. If it is considered that each candidate to the Senate requires approximately 10 billboards, we would be talking about a set expense of approximately 5 million pesos a month for the duration of the campaign.

The question they all ask today is this: How do we control the management of the ceilings established for each campaign? It is a task that, according to Liliam Suarez, will not be easy. It was asserted that the candidates have to register their accounting books at the CNE and present a campaign budget that will be verified afterward with each one of the organizations that rendered services to a specific candidate.

Defense Sector Employs Largest Number of Government Workers

PA2910032993 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Today, the defense sector accounts for 70 percent of the new government jobs created in Colombia. Out of 333,000 government employees, 234,000 work within the defense sector—that is, seven out of every 10 government employees work for the Defense Ministry, the police, or the Administrative Department of Security.

The payroll increase in those organizations began three years ago, and evidence shows that this trend will continue. From the 25,000 people hired in 1992 by the central government, 17,000 ended up in the defense sector, and as this sector's payroll increases, so does its burden on the national budget. The salaries of the 233,000 [amount as heard] defense employees went from 400 billion pesos in 1992 to 660 billion pesos this year. This amount is equivalent only to the salaries of teachers, who number close to 200,000 in the entire country.

The Army's payroll alone amounts to 130 billion pesos a year, and before its reduction following the state's modernization, the allotment charged to the national budget for personal services had increased significantly. No changes in this trend are expected for 1994.

Ecuador

* Polls Discredit Legislators, Show Variation

94SM0030A Quito HOY in Spanish 22 Sep 93 p 7a

[Article: "The Deputies' Popularity"]

[Text] According to various opinion polls, Congress is still held in great disrepute.

Because of the issue of term extensions, the public has turned against the lawmakers.

Congress is one of the most discredited institutions in the country, according to various opinion polls reviewed by HOY.

According to these public opinion samplings, the reasons why Congress has fallen into disrepute are the scandals, fights, and lack of thoughtful discussion of issues of national interest.

Within this context, HOY has followed trends in the deputies' popularity ratings based on different surveys.

A high percentage of those responding expressed the opinion throughout the year that none of the deputies is good.

Congress' disrepute has transferred to the deputies. However, a few lawmakers are singled out as superior and have over the months obtained the top rankings, although there is a clear difference between the opinions expressed in Quito and Guayaquil.

Those invariably ranked among the best in Quito are Heinz Moeller (PSC [Social Christian Party]), Andres Vallejo (ID [Democratic Left]), Carlos Julio Arosemena (formerly of the PUR [Republican Unity Party]), Teresa Minuche (PCE [Communist Party of Ecuador]), and Carlos Vallejo (DP [Popular Democracy Party]).

Juan Jose Castello from the MPD [Democratic People's Movement] ranked high one month, while Vallejo and Moeller have taken turns in first place.

Teresa Minuche has been declining in popularity. She ranked at the top in the early months, but in August dropped out of the main group.

The polls indicate that her loss of popularity results from action connected with controversial laws onto which, at the last minute, she tacked provisions that came to be known as "Teresita's jewels."

In Guayaquil, Carlos Julio Arosemena and Heinz Moeller have always occupied the top rankings.

Minuche was at the top, but has in recent months been ousted by Ricardo Noboa, who played a leading role with his accusations against Elsa Bucaram.

One of the things that carried the most weight at polling time, causing public opinion to turn against Congress and the deputies, was the issue of the term extension that was unanimously rejected, even by all former presidents of Congress.

Another factor was internal conflicts, fights to capture certain positions, and the repeated lack of a quorum that prevented the normal operation of Congress, all negative factors that the people took into account when it came time to draw their conclusions.

Photo Captions [photos not reproduced]

1. p 7a (top row, left to right): Social Christian Deputy Heinz Moeller is among the most outstanding lawmakers. Andres Vallejo from the Democratic Left has unfailingly been on the list of the best. Carlos Vallejo (DP), former president of Congress, is also on the privileged list. Carlos Julio Arosemena Monroy, who has gone back to his old party, the PNR [Nationalist Revolutionary Party], has not lost his prestige.

2. p 7a (bottom row, left to right): Conservative Deputy Teresa Minuche, from Pichincha Province, has lost points because of her "regressive behavior." Social Christian Ricardo Noboa Bejarano has taken the place vacated by his colleague Minuche as a result of his accusations against Elsa Bucaram.

* Quito Center Battles Drug Addiction

94WD0020Z Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 21 Sep 93 p 1 Sec 2

[Article: "Fight To Prevent Drug Addiction"]

[Text] There are 50,000 users in Guayaquil and Quito.

Over 10.1 percent of all people living in Quito and Guayaquil have used illegal drugs at least once in their lives. Of that percentage, some 50,000 persons in the two cities are regular users of illegal substances.

There are many prevention plans, but they have gone no further than the paper they are written on because the government does not have the resources to do its job. The drug treatment centers that do exist are private and receive outside aid. Moreover, their work has barely begun and is already beset with problems such as a lack of experience and even opportunism because the fight against drug use is like the fight between David and Goliath. David is bereft of means, while Goliath has everything, even the economic might of that underground, dangerous industry.

Among these centers is one in Quito near Mitad del Mundo, tucked in between parched, dusty mountains timidly dotted with stubborn shrubs. It is like no other.

This center is run by a foundation called "Our Young People" and it has a program for dealing with drug addiction.

It is a program of prevention that guarantees greater levels of fulfillment in society; fulfillment that is drug-free.

Observations

At noon the sky was clear and dazzlingly blue. The morning had been stifling hot, the kind of heat that sticks to the body.

In one of the center's patios carefully bedecked with plants, trees, and flowers of different textures and colors, eight educators were planning the week's activities: "At these meetings, in addition to outlining the kids' tasks and responsibilities, we evaluate the work done by each one of us," says group coordinator Eduardo Torres.

The institution, which is financed by funds from the European Economic Community, is divided into two specific areas: the Treatment Community, a clinic where young people with addiction problems receive several months of treatment consisting of psychological rehabilitation; and the Productive Workshop Center, a training place for young people encountering difficulties finding jobs.

"The Treatment Community is aimed at persons who have lost control over drugs," explains organization director Jackes Laufer, "meaning that we are not here for those experimenting with drugs or occasional users. We treat individuals who are heavily into drugs and who have family problems."

Family Cooperation

In order to be accepted into the program, applicants must meet certain requirements: "First of all, we speak with the person's family. One condition for accepting a young person is constant contact with the family, which must agree to provide clothing and the necessary supplies. If the young person has no family, we look for a distant relative. Lacking that, we take him as he is."

"Treatment is not completely free," Laufer says. "We try to ask for some kind of support from relatives; the family pays what it can. Obviously, we do not charge the same as a private clinic. At any rate, if the family cannot pay anything, depending on the case, we accept the young person."

Treatment Without Medication

The psychoanalysis of the old and controversial Freud is used in treating patients. The center's philosophy is not to punish the user, but to motivate him, through group therapy based on dialogue, to resolve the problems that led him to use drugs.

According to Laufer, "The use of illegal substances is only a symptom. If, for some reason, the person feels bad or is depressed, smoking marijuana calms him down, while using coke gives him energy."

Human Beings

"Here we work on the subject's depression, on his feelings of inferiority and failure. No one becomes subhuman because he uses drugs. A user is a person, neither better nor worse than another individual who might have problems of a different nature," he emphasizes.

In order for treatment to work, eight educators are with the young people constantly, talking with them and dealing with their problems, anxieties, and frustrations.

Following a short break in his coordinating meeting with the educators, Torres says that at this center, kids with addiction problems are, for all practical purposes, in a total relearning process. For Torres, the biggest problem is that young people come to the center with no good work habits: "One of the most difficult parts is to make them work and stick to their tasks. On another level," the specialist adds, "their limited ability to communicate and express their inner problems is another difficulty that we have with young people."

Torres is a physician specializing in clinical psychology. He is 31 and has worked at Our Young People since it was founded. "All the educators are psychologists and we fully agree with the method of work: friendship and unconditional support for young people coming to the center, with no violence of any kind."

"They are individuals with special characteristics who, due to the indiscriminate treatment they have received from society, erect an invisible barrier. They refuse to allow anyone to keep on doing them harm. Sometimes it takes a long time to break down that barrier."

"Through the morning's group therapy, the kids think about the life they led before.

"At the same time, the rest of their comrades criticize their presentation and make whatever observations they deem pertinent.

"The second part of the talks is feedback, which helps correct attitudes based on others' criticisms of inappropriate behavior that violates the center's rules."

Productive Workshops

The rear area of the center is where the training workshops are found. The noise level is what first attracts one's attention. Inside an enormous hangar that resembles a stadium, kids and young people between the ages of 10 and 30 are sawing wood, hammering nails, putting up sheet metal, sanding cabinets, and polishing furniture of different types and sizes.

Under the constant supervision of a carpentry technician, about 12 young people are receiving special training in order to develop their skills in production and marketing.

In addition to providing professional training and skills, the handicrafts center was created for the purpose, in a more advanced stage, of providing young people and their families with lines of credit to set up productive miniprojects. This activity will be financed with resources from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

Paraguay

Colorado Party-Executive Branch Relationship 'Strengthened'

PY2810211893 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 28 Oct 93 p 14

[Text] Addressing the ANR [National Republican Association—Colorado Party] executive board plenary, the president of the Republic, Juan Carlos Wasmosy, yesterday asked for patience and tolerance in the achievement of the government's goals, managing conflicts through dialogue so as to avoid crisis situations. The chief executive attended the Colorado Party leadership's session to reciprocate the ANR executive board's support expressed during a visit to Lopez Palace last week.

Yesterday's session of the ANR executive board was merely a protocol ceremony lasting about half an hour. During this session the ruling party leaders presented the image of a good relationship between the ANR and the Executive Branch.

At the session's opening Colorado Party President Blas N. Riquelme emphasized the executive board's satisfaction over the chief executive's presence, and recalled that last week, with the support expressed to the chief executive, it had been confirmed that it was necessary to coordinate programs and implement actions that will make the country achieve its political, economic, and social goals.

Riquelme emphasized that it is time "to definitively overcome ceremonial protocol and simple wishful thinking" so that the Colorados might seriously dedicate themselves to implementing the platform promised to the Paraguayan people.

The ANR president also emphasized the Colorado Party leaders' ability and aptitude in the achievement of the governability pact, which he described as a historic and unprecedented event.

For his part, Wasmosy explained that it is impossible to expect that all the government's goals will be achieved in less than two months. The president said: "Government activities do not involve using a magic wand to achieve magic, nearly miraculous, results. Along with full and persevering dedication we must have patience and tolerance, which must not be mistaken for conformity, which leads to inaction."

Wasmosy pointed out that under democratic rule the basic role of a statesman and of the political class is to correctly manage conflicts through straightforward dialogue, in order to avoid crisis situations whose consequences are detrimental to the entire society.

Wasmosy's speech received much applause from the people present, who crowded the executive board's session hall. The president even received a red poncho at one point. Various leaders described the ceremony as historic, and emphasized that with this ceremony the good relationship between the Colorado Party leadership and the Executive Branch has been strengthened.

Chamber Health Committee Deputies To Visit Cuba, Costa Rica

PY2810203093 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 28 Oct 93 p 10

[Excerpt] Chamber of Deputies Health Committee members are travelling to Cuba today with the goal of becoming acquainted with the Caribbean country's health system. The tour also includes a visit to Costa Rica. The tour will be made within the framework of the budget constraints Congress is experiencing.

Deputy Jose Zarza Ledesma, Chamber of Deputies Health Committee chairman, emphasized the importance of becoming acquainted with both the Cuban and Costa Rican health systems in order to transfer, to the extent this is possible, their experiences to our country.

In Cuba the legislators will meet with People's Assembly or Cuban Congress members, and will also visit various medical institutions. Zarza pointed out that they have also asked to hold a meeting with President Fidel Castro, which has not yet been confirmed. [passage omitted]

Peru

Fujimori Reports Guzman Meeting With Shining Path's Morote

PA2910024493 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Oct 93

[From the "Direct Line" newscast]

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori has disclosed that Abimael Guzman held a meeting with Osman Morote who, like Marta Huatay, has stated his agreement with opening peace talks with the government.

The president also said he will not allow the Shining Path [SL] leader to meet with the foreign lawyers who have arrived in Lima to request an interview with Prisoner No. 1,509.

On another topic, the president announced that the Banking Law reform will be promulgated soon to allow CLAE [Latin American Business Advisory Center] and other similar institutions to formalize their status.

[Begin recording] [Fujimori] The government, mainly the Executive Branch, has all the authority. No organization—much less of the kind being promoted by these two lawyers... [pauses] I will not allow these interviews. The only interview I have authorized is with Agent 002, period. In due time, if I decide to suspend those interviews with 002, it will be 003. But none of the 00's will be foreign. And much less some lawyer who intends to defend the life of Abimael Guzman.

[Unidentified reporter] Is this your final word?

[Fujimori] I'll tell you something. I have promoted meetings with some other members of the SL command. I had already announced the one with Marta Huatay. Marta Huatay totally agrees with the guidelines and with whatever Abimael Guzman says.

There has also been a meeting with Osman Morote, who was brought from the Yanamayo Prison and taken to Abimael Guzman's cell. There have been two meetings, and he too—Osman Morote—has confirmed his agreement with the position adopted by Abimael Guzman and Elena Iparaguirre. This, of course, indicates that they continue to abide by the guidelines set by the so-called SL Political Directorate.

I think that if a significant number of the SL rank and file agree with Abimael Guzman's position an important step forward would have been made. Few of those who are still free, especially in the middle and lower ranks, would be able question this position. This means it would be an overall or integral position for all these members. [break in video]

The Financial System Law will be promulgated this week. And the government—I am sure Congress will too and the Banking Superintendency—will provide all possible help. However, the actual solution is not in the decree or the law itself but in the savings and the investment.

Honestly, I cannot believe that $200 million or $300 million could just evaporate. That could have happened in a corrupt government. But I cannot imagine that $200 million or $300 million could disappear from a private enterprise. [end recording]

Commentary Views Electoral Use of Guzman Letters

PY2810200393 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 12 Oct 93 p A22

[Editorial: "The Importance of Being Modest"]

[Text] [Shining Path, SL, leader] Abimael Guzman's second letter shows—more clearly than his first—that he personally wrote them: his special style of writing and arguing are openly there for all to see. No one could have dictated them. The letters—particularly the second one—include, however, certain concessions to government objectives that have nothing to do with a SL surrender.

The decision to talk with Abimael Guzman, seeking to convince him to call on his SL followers to lay down their arms was correct and EXPRESO has congratulated the government for it. It was an intelligent way to hasten the end of the war, which is the central goal. But Guzman apparently included in his letter something that is not essential to its stated purpose. You do not need to be very skeptical to note that there is another issue hanging from the main objective: To consolidate the campaign for the "yes" vote in the plebiscite.

Everybody knows it, but everybody looks the other way or forgives the manipulation because if the government can get Abimael Guzman to really convince his followers to surrender, the people will naturally support it at the ballot boxes. Exploiting some electoral profit from the letters is therefore a very small sin.

But there is a factor called modesty. The maneuver must not be so flagrant as is expressed in the second letter where Guzman ends by legitimizing—from a Marxist point of view—something that is almost ridiculous: Fujimori's 5 April self coup. Guzman writes to the president: "Events have shown that your administration has achieved significant progress, particularly since the 5 April 1992, which was a clear need for the Peruvian state. To achieve this progress the government laid the bases of the economic process and implemented a state reform program."

Obviously Fujimori does not need Guzman's approval on these decisions, the performance of the intelligence services, or the merits of his countersubversive strategy. But modesty requires the president to also recognize that the self-defense system in settlements and the people's resistance—which were decisive in the final result of the war—were already operating when Fujimori assumed power.

If Guzman is saying that Fujimori's government is resolving state problems and the economic situation, against which Guzman rose up in the first place, he is being insulting. No one can say that any reforms in Peru justify the means or the purpose of his genocidal action.

Guzman is wallowing in the illusion that he did not fail because he was a factor for change in Peru. But do we have to accept the humiliation of accepting that fantasy? We have yet to see if Guzman has enough authority to obtain the SL's final surrender by merely asking for it. We have yet to see if he can achieve that. But we will lose nothing by acquiescing to his ridiculous and fictitious self-justification that seeks to assuage his foolish vanity.

We repeat, no one needs Guzman's help, much less his approval.

Second Letter 'Trap' for Fujimori

PY2910014793 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 14 Oct 93 p 18

[Editorial: "The Secret Directive"]

[Text] While the first letter written by Abimael Guzman was, in general terms, welcomed by the different sectors of the country, which saw in it an admittance of the situation of weakness Shining Path [SL] is experiencing, and also the possibility of reaching—through talks, rapprochements, negotiations, or whatever mechanism—the end of this senseless war, the effects of the second letter by the terrorist leader have been contradictory.

As the days pass it is becoming clearer that government representatives, inspired by the image of total collapse that could be understood from the second letter from the SL leader and by its immediate effects in favor of the Yes vote favoring the government, have acted very hastily and without a thorough analysis of a letter which, in addition to what we call its "unctuous boot-licking practice" toward engineer Fujimori, is extremely ambiguous.

In fact, Guzman's analysis and his recognition that Fujimori's administration "has obtained objective achievements, especially after the events of 5 April 1992, a situation which was clearly due to happen because it was a must for the Peruvian Government," ends up positioning the SL as an uncomfortable tactical ally of the government. The unusual retrospective view stemming from this situation would lead Abimael Guzman to the same conclusion any follower of Fujimori would reach, with the sole difference that what terrorism sought, at the price of so much violence and destruction, was acheived by Fujimori with the help of tanks.

Fernando Belaunde Terry was, therefore, absolutely right when he humorously reported the "liberal-communist" alliance which stems from such an interpretation. This alliance also explains the rending of hair among the government-supporting press media, which surely thought that the last thing the government they support so fervently would do is to swallow—in its objective to win the referendum at any cost—that view of recent history as an alliance of fundamentalisms.

Is Abimael Guzman a defender of the 5 April self-coup? A new reading of Guzman's second letter leads us to complete the analysis we published not long ago on the same letter (LA REPUBLICA 11 October 1993). Yes,

undoubtedly the letter includes clearly written praises which are typical of any submissive government supporter and not of the "fourth sword of the Maoist Marxism Leninism."

But in that letter we can also find a paragraph which very few have noticed. That paragraph says: "We believe that new, complex, and very serious problems have emerged over the past few months, bringing up to the Communist Party of Peru essential leadership problems, and it is precisely there where our party has received the heaviest blow. The leadership issue is, therefore, decisive, and in our case it will not be solved for a long period of time, which affects particularly the development of the popular war."

For us this is the key paragraph of the letter. A first reading, influenced by the excessive personality cult prevailing in the SL, can be understood as follows: "I, its top leader, strategist, and ideologist, am a prisoner. My absence has prompted the disasters experienced over the past year of the popular war."

We have no doubt that this was the interpretation of the government representatives and of the SIN [National Intelligence Service] group which has evaluated the letter, or otherwise they would have not dared publish it. This was also the interpretation given by President Fujimori, who continues to consider the Guzman-Iparraguirre couple as SL "political leadership."

However, the paragraph admits another interpretation, which is what we believe to be correct. According to that, Guzman reportedly admits that the SL is experiencing a serious leadership problem because of his arrest, and he requests that he be replaced as leader of the terrorist organization. This is the reason for insisting that "the leadership issue is decisive" and that "in our case it will not be solved for a long period of time."

It is appropriate to note that if Guzman were consistent with his situation, the use of the term "for a long period of time" would lack any meaning, because he has been sentenced to life imprisonment, and so his situation has been definitely settled.

Only through this interpretation do the first part of the letter and Guzman's defense of the 5 April event make sense. Because on joining the Fujimori administration the SL leader makes a denial of himself, and reviles himself in an effort to convince the current command of his organization to disregard him.

Said in a different way: Guzman knows that after having been the SL strongman for more than 20 years, and after having developed the terrible cult of personality he promoted among his followers, they will continue to recognize him as leader.

The only way to force a replacement is to demonstrate that he is—really or figuratively—defeated, and to achieve this there is nothing better than to defend what is directly opposed to his ideas, and to give great electoral support to the representative of that state he tries to destroy, the state which he had the imprudence or arrogance to support publicly.

The response came immediately. From Martha Huatay ("it is his handwriting but not his idea") to Adolfo Olaechea ("it is an awkward piece of propaganda trying to show the division of SL"), and going through the Metropolitan Committee of the subversive group ("it is a lie sent by Fujimori"), the generalized feeling was that of unbelief. SL terrorists would rather believe in a Guzman drugged, or submitted to some sort of brainwashing.

But the document and the video that support this fact exist, and this forces SL to adopt a position on the matter. We have no doubt, therefore, that an answer will come within the next few days. Perhaps this is what Guzman was looking for in his letter: to officially start the "de-Guzmanization" period for the subversive group, to tell them that the post-Guzman era has begun, that they will have to forget him as a person to concentrate on his "guiding thought" (and perhaps not even that).

"This is a difficult task, but one which somehow the SL had already begun in establishing a board of leaders made up of faces not very well known—or unknown—to the intelligence services. We believe, therefore, that Father Felipe McGregor is right when he says that this letter will have little effect on SL members and leaders, who will only tell the others that Abimael Guzman is no longer the SL leader.

What needs to be known now is whether they will be able to replace him. And in any case, there is a propaganda effect in the letter which will play a deterrent role among SL followers and possible followers, as stated by Father McGregor. But this effect has already been achieved by the first letter, and thus we share the conclusion reached by Carlos Tapia in his column published yesterday by LA REPUBLICA: "The first letter was a success, the second an error."

Unless Guzman writes, as rumored, a third letter asking his troops to give up their weapons—but until such a thing happens—we will still believe that the Fujimori administration has fallen into a trap.

Peasants Oppose Draft Constitution, Advocate No Vote

PY2810225393 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 12 Oct 93 p 10

[Text] The government wants to turn the peasant defense patrols in towns and the countryside into paramilitary groups, said Daniel Idrogo, brand new president of the National Coordinating Committee of peasant defense patrols.

Idrogo says that such an attempt is included in two supreme decrees meant to transform the peasant defense patrols into mere self-defense committees, thus distorting the authentic and historical objectives that marked the creation of these organizations.

The decrees, which were recently issued, force the peasant and urban defense patrols to such a change.

Idrogo has said: "They want to impose the self-defense committees on us and subordinate us to military commands."

"We will not allow this," he added.

Idrogo's statements were endorsed by an agreement of the Second National Convention of peasant and urban defense patrols that took place between 8 and 10 October in Lima.

The convention agreed on its last day of work to reject the supreme decrees and to demand that they be annulled.

"The peasant and urban defense patrols are governed by their own statutes, which are democratically discussed and approved according to our aspirations, respecting the Constitution and law," Idrogo said.

The convention rejected the attempt to turn defense patrols into mere self-defense committees, and rather defended the enforcement of the law that legalized those organizations that were originally peasant organizations.

Idrogo stated that that law should be improved and amended so as to enhance the role of defense patrols.

He pointed out that defense patrols could very well be empowered to nominate justices of the peace and vice governors.

Two hundred delegates from peasant and urban defense patrols nationwide attended the convention.

They represented some 3,800 peasant defense patrols and approximately 60 urban patrols.

The delegates made a comprehensive assessment of the actions undertaken by the current administration in the economic, social, and agricultural areas, among others.

They agreed finally to reject the economic and political measures implemented by Fujimori's administration, which they termed "dictatorial."

The corollary of that rejection was the unanimous decision to advocate voting no in the forthcoming 31 October referendum.

The convention moreover decided to demand the immediate release of the patrolmen who have been "unjustly" arrested on charges of being linked to terrorist groups.

Idrogo stated that more than 700 patrolmen have had to endure imprisonment over the entire country because of the charges made against them.

Idrogo asserted that peasants' defense patrols have shown in deed that they wholly condemn terrorism.

"And yet the higher-ups, the upper echelons of the government and military, have unleashed a veritable offensive against defense patrols under the pretext of terrorism," he added.

He revealed that leaders of peasant and urban defense patrols are currently suffering harassment, persecution, and lawsuits.

Patrolmen also analyzed the draft constitution to be submitted to the people in the forthcoming referendum. They reached the conclusion that the draft is unacceptable on the grounds that it grossly violates the rights of peasants, workers, students, and other sectors.

Idrogo stated that the agricultural system included in that draft curtails peasants' rights that were stipulated in the 1979 Constitution.

He noted that another serious curtailment is the one that has to do with abandoned property.

The 1979 Constitution establishes that those properties will be granted to poor landless peasants.

"The draft constitution that will be the object of a referendum provides that those properties will revert to the state, so as to be sold later," he remarked.

"The draft does not mention the fact that agriculture will be given priority in budget allocations. Neither does it guarantee the right of peasants to freely organize their movements," he added.

In the area of education, Idrogo said that the draft constitution does not even mention higher institutes or technology and education, which always draw young peasants.

Idrogo also criticized the fact that university education will no longer be free.

With regard to the death penalty, the convention rejected it because delegates are of the opinion that it will not resolve the deep causes that breed violence in the country.

The convention endorsed true pacification with social justice, respect for human rights, economic development, and national sovereignty.

Terry Urges 'No' Vote

PA2910054293 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Oct 93

["Message to the nation" by Fernando Belaunde Terry, president of the Popular Action party; place and date not given; from the "Direct Line" newscast—live or recorded]

[Text] Peruvian friends, citizens have been summoned to express themselves next Sunday regarding a new draft Constitution. This new Constitution would replace the 1979 Constitution, under which the current government took office and which the president of the Republic, as well as all the high-ranking officials, have vowed to uphold. By no means would going to the ballot boxes mean endorsing the April coup d'etat. The 1979 Constitution, about which no political party complained, is still completely valid. We did not come up with alternatives but neither did we challenge that 1979 Assembly.

Most Latin American countries have proscribed the scourge of the continuous presidencies, one of the features of the proposed Constitution. Some even definitely rule out the possibility that a man may return to the presidency once having occupied that post. This is true in Mexico, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Colombia. In Peru's case, as we all remember, the Constitutions of 1979 and 1933, provide for reelection but not immediate reelection. Thus there must be an intermediate period.

The government has dedicated itself to a million-dollar campaign, using all state resources, to campaign for this new Constitution, trying to link it to welfare, public order, and even to a kind of Arabian Nights flow of economic resources that would appear in the form of millions of dollars if approved. But the Peruvian people are mature and know how to evaluate these pre-electoral propositions. The vast majority of Constitutionalist lawyers reject a Constitutional project that lacks social depth, on the one hand, and which is terribly centralist. It virtually leaves departments and provinces voiceless in the national parliament.

As a former president of the Republic, as a citizen, as the leader of the Popular Action Party, the party that postulated my candidacy, I feel duty-bound to inform the citizenry that the party, meeting in a national congress, has decided to vote No. Therefore, and in complete agreement with their reasons, I too will vote No, as that is what Peruvian democratic traditions and the nation's destiny requires.

* Ashaninka Struggle Against Terrorists Portrayed

* 'Army' of 4,000 and 'General Staff'

94WR0007Z Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 9 Sep 93 pp 16-17

[Article by Francisco Reyes of the Investigative Unit: "Ashaninkas Ask for Weapons In Order To Crush the Shining Path"]

[Text] Army of 4,000 Indians will launch major offensive against its bases.

"Kitoniro," a leading Ashaninka warrior, has pledged to wipe out the terrorists and restore peace to his land.

In response to the dreadful slaughter of defenseless communities, Ashaninka organizations have resolved to put together a General Staff and native army that will soon launch an offensive in all areas where Maoist bases have been established.

"Kitoniro," one of the leading Ashaninka warriors who has achieved victory in five battles, has pledged to drive out the terrorists and restore peace to his land. However, he has asked for weapons in order to guarantee victory. A LA REPUBLICA reporter attended the meeting of all Ashaninka delegations and toured the area that was the scene of one of the bloodiest battles.

Tall, stocky, and with striking features, Kitoniro ("scorpion" in Spanish) is one of the Ashaninka warriors most feared by Shining Path members in the Central Jungle.

The battle-hardened native has been victorious in six bloody fights against the Maoists and escaped from the hands of his captors four times.

Kitoniro now heads the Ashaninka defense of the Tambo River, although his fame began in Poyeni, a village besieged by the Shining Path since 1989 and a living symbol of the native resistance and their total devotion to defending their land.

The people of Poyeni have fought on alone, asking the military authorities and government only for weapons and ammunition.

They have tirelessly made their appeal in Satipo, capital of the Central Jungle, and Lima, capital of deaf ears. Their efforts have been futile and results nil.

A new delegation of Ashaninkas is once again in Lima. This time they hope to see the chairman of the Joint Command and General Commander of the Army, Nicolas Hermoza Rios. They have one main objective: to procure weapons.

The Ashaninkas need 500 breechloaders and 20,000 rounds of ammunition if they are to be successful in their fight against the Shining Path terrorists on their own ground. In Poyeni, they have only 40 16-caliber shotguns, plus their own bows, arrows, and spears.

In July of 1992, the Army offered the Tambo River Ashaninkas 150 breechloaders, 5,000 cartridges, and five crates of grenades, none of which ever came. In the meantime, the natives stood firm, paying no heed to the cost.

The Ashaninkas made another appeal for weapons, this time going to General Hermoza Rios. The Indian leaders complained bitterly about being abandoned by the Army: "People are dying there," one leader told Hermoza Rios.

The chairman of the Armed Forces Joint Command promised a shipment of weapons. On 1 January 1993,

the Army delivered what it had offered, but the Ashaninkas received an average of three breechloaders per village!

In contrast, the Indians complain, the Army gave 80 percent of all weapons to the settlers. At least this is what happened on 27 May 1993, when the soldiers distributed 280 breechloaders.

Out of the shipment issued on that occasion, the Indians received only four weapons and an average of 60 cartridges per community. "How are we supposed to defeat the Shining Path like that, with four weapons to face an attack by 200 terrorists, many of them armed with rifles and machine guns? It's a joke!" one Ashaninka leader angrily exclaimed.

The Tambo River Indians have 600 patrols scattered over 19 communities, while in the Pangoa, Sonomoro, and Mazamari Valleys, an additional 3,800 men have mobilized into self-defense committees.

Nevertheless, these 4,400 Ashaninka warriors have a scant 200 breechloaders. "The effectiveness of our arrows depends on the weather. The rain renders the arrows very fragile and bows become slippery," one Ashaninka leader points out.

In the Central Jungle, a decision has already been made. An Ashaninka army of 1,000 natives will soon raid "Red" zones controlled by the Shining Path in the Perene, Tambo, Ene, Sonomoro, and Pangoa Valleys in what will be the biggest offensive ever waged by the natives.

The offensive was agreed upon early in September following the first Congress of the Ashaninka Nomatsiguenga Indian Communities of the Pangoa, Ene, and Tambo Valleys, held in a border town near Shining Path territory.

Following three days of discussions, the Ashaninkas decided to set up a Joint Staff headed by the most determined soldiers from border native communities and made up of the leaders of the main native organizations in the Central Jungle.

Henceforth, the Central Committee for the Ashaninka-Nomatsiguenga Self-Defense of the Pangoa, Ene, and Tambo Valleys will coordinate all antiterrorist action of native villages in the weeks ahead.

The event was attended by the highest representatives of the Confederation of Native Communities of the Central Jungle, CECONCEC; the Confederation of Tambo River Ashaninkas, CART; and the Apurimac River Ashaninka Organization, OARA.

It was also attended by the principal leaders of the Atalaya Regional Indian Organization, OARA, and the Federation of Native Communities of Ucayali Tributaries, FECONAU, who debated problems relating to land, ecology, health, education, violence, and human rights.

In analyzing the ever more acute nature of political violence and the critical status of human rights in the area, Ashaninka leaders decided to play a leading role in the fight against the terrorists.

"The peasant patrols and soldiers have failed in their fight against the Shining Path here in the Central Jungle," one of the leaders attending the event said. "The patrols run out of food and are forced to return home without achieving their objective," he added.

Kitoniro says Ashaninka warriors live off the forest and therefore need no other food than what they find along the way. They fish in the streams and hunt the wild animals that come to drink. "That is how an Ashaninka warrior eats. He does not need canned food or vegetables from the mountains," one native leader said.

For the time being, time is on the side of the terrorists.

War Continues

Nine years have gone by since the first Shining Path raid perpetrated against the Ashaninka people. In 1984, the Maoists attacked the native community of Cutivireni, a settlement located in the vast Ene River Valley.

"That is where it all began. A final clash is inevitable," said Ashaninka warrior Kitoniro. So far, despite the lonely fight undertaken by his people and many ambushes, capricious fate has been on their side. "It's them or us," Kitoniro says.

"Why do the *choris* (the term Ashaninkas use to refer to people from the highlands settling in the Central Jungle) go out on patrol if they never confront the Reds?" asked another person attending the event and well-informed about the military "habits" of the armed settlers.

"How will we ever put an end to this social scourge this way?" another asks. "We have to organize Ashaninka commando units in a strategic place in the Central Jungle," one of the leaders proposed. "No one is going to save us, not even Jesus Christ himself."

The natives hope to attack on three fronts simultaneously: from the Tambo River in the north, Satipo in the center, and the vicinity of Yainapango (a Shining Path base in the Central Jungle near Pangoa Valley) in the south.

The objective: Shining Path bases located on both banks of the Ene, Tambo, and Perene Rivers.

"The Shining Path has already murdered four Ashaninka chiefs," one delegate says. "We are going to attack and halt their advance once and for all," another leader adds with determination. "The Army's strategy and tactics have yielded no results," the same native chief concludes.

On 6 July 1989, the Shining Path killed Pablo Santana, president of the Tambo River Ashaninka Confederation, CART, and three other leaders.

The raid came moments after the conclusion of the native congress. The Maoist "people's war" had been rejected by a broad majority attending the event.

"The Army fires randomly without ever entering a Red zone," observes one participant. "That way, the Reds escape and the patrols achieve nothing. Then the terrorists reorganize and quietly attack somewhere else," adds another Ashaninka leader.

"We have our own war tactics," one of those present said, at which point Kitoniro recalled the *piri-piri*, a native grass used for war. Sharpened vision and hearing are among its recognized properties.

As a child, he learned from his father the art of dodging arrows and bullets. The "click" of the trigger warned when it was time to duck. He recalled his grandfather, who family legend says defeated a rival tribe single-handed.

He also recalls the ambush laid for a Shining Path patrol. They knew of a corridor used by the terrorists and decided to wait for them camouflaged in the forest. The order given was to capture or kill the "commander," but no Ashaninkas or settlers in the unit.

The mission succeeded.

They managed to rescue dozens of "masses" [sic] held by the Maoists and recover weapons of various calibers. "Those 'recaptured' are used as guides. Furthermore, they cannot bear arms for a year," Kitoniro explained.

On 1 January 1991, a total of 19 Ashaninka native communities on the Tambo River decided to organize into self-defense committees. In reprisal, the Shining Path attacked the community of Poyeni in October of the same year.

Two natives were killed, but Shining Path losses totaled 15.

Subsequently, on 15 February 1992, the terrorists staged their counteroffensive with unfavorable results for the attackers, who lost 20 men.

There was a massive attack on 20 October of that same year, but the self-defense committees had been warned. The final tally was 15 terrorists killed. The Ashaninkas suffered no casualties.

Final Attack

The bloodiest battle took place on 14 November 1992. It could have been the last one for the Ashaninkas of Poyeni. The attack began at 1600 and lasted until 2200 that night. The natives had no other weapons than their bows and arrows.

The terrorists' firepower was vastly superior, consisting of rifles, machine guns, and grenade launchers.

The Ashaninkas had an organized force of 300 warriors to defend a population of over 2,000.

That night, confronted with the Ashaninkas' unyielding stance, the Shining Path decided to retreat. Thirty died that night and another 50 were seriously wounded. Four Ashaninkas died and three were wounded.

The same thing happened on 5 March 1993. The Shining Path did not achieve its objective of finishing off Poyeni; on the contrary. Once again, its plan backfired. Twenty more fell to the arrows and 16-caliber shells.

For years now, the Ashaninkas of Poyeni have been alone in waging the decisive battles for their independence from the Shining Path yoke. Besieged day and night, many have fallen in ambushes. The Marines eventually answered their dramatic calls.

Seeking to ward off another attack, 120 Ashaninkas, accompanied by 17 Marines, including 15 enlisted men and two lieutenants, went out on patrol on 17 June 1993. Dividing up into four groups, they spread out over territories occupied by the Maoists between Poyeni and Otica.

As a result of the war with the terrorists, Poyeni has grown out of all proportion. Before the Shining Path offensive that began in the '90's, the native community was made up of 400 persons, a number that has now swollen to over 2,800 displaced Ashaninkas rescued from the Maoists.

An atmosphere of tension continues to reign in the Central Jungle. In the meantime, the Shining Path gains time and reorganizes. "They now feel superior because they easily killed 21 of our brothers from the native community of Tahuantinsuyo," one Ashaninka chief said.

When the Shining Path terrorists attacked Tahuantinsuyo, they left gloomy messages: "Next time it will be Tsiriari and Panga," two native communities organized into self-defense patrols close to towns attacked by Maoists last month.

Poyeni and the native communities of Greater Pajonal before it have shown that the terrorists can be defeated. They are waiting for a chance to free their people from the Shining Path threat and live in peace, the peace they inherited from their ancestors!

* Five Thousand Natives Under Terrorist Rule

94WR0007Y Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 11 Sep 93 pp 18-19

[Article by Francisco Reyes from the Investigative Unit: "Ashaninkas From Over 20 Communities Endure Slavery"]

[Text] Some 5,000 Ashaninkas have been captured by the Shining Path and are being held at bases scattered throughout the Ene, Tambo, Perene, Sonomora, and Pangoa Valleys, community leaders reported at the native congress held in Satipo Province.

Some 80 percent of the Ashaninka territory in the Tambo River Valley is under Maoist rule. Some 2,000 natives have been enslaved in the so-called "people's committees."

The native communities dominated by the Shining Path are Santaro, Sheni, Anapate, Otica, Mazarobeni, Toncama, Obiri, Camajeni, and Puerto Prado.

Ashaninka communities in the Ene River Valley are in even worse shape. Here, 90 percent of the territory and 85 percent of the people are controlled by the terrorists.

From Puerto Prado in the extreme north of the Ene Valley to Esmeralda Valley in the south, very close to Ayacucho, that control is total except for isolated possessions under the control of the Army in the Cutivireni, Camantavishi, and Esmeralda Valleys.

The "Red" native communities in Ene Valley are many: Shimpenchariato, Centro Tsomaveni, Tres Unidos de Matereni, Saniveni, Potsoteni, Union Puerto Ashaninka, Quimaropitari, Quempiri, Quiteni Meteni, Centro Caperocia, and Samaniato.

Among the settlements in the Ene Valley taken by the terrorists are the Association of Paquichari Farmers, the Association of San Miguel de Shimpenchariato Farmers, the Association of Small Farmers of Tonontuari, and the Association of Miraflores Farmers.

In addition: the settlements in the Virgin Jungle Services Cooperative, the Tsomavenbi Agroindustrial Society, the Santa Fe de Yaviroa Native Group, Pro-Colonization of Tierras de Montana, Santo Domingo Agro-Industrial Colonization, and the Upper Ene Association of Small Farmers.

Finally: the Quempiri Valley Agrarian Services Cooperative, the Primavera Farmers Association, the Selva de Oro Agroindustrial Society, the Segundo Maveni Farmers Association, and the Quiteni Farmers Association.

Until 1990, when total control of the zone by the Shining Path began, Ashaninka native communities in the Ene Valley had some 5,000 members, most of them children and young people. The settlements had 2,500 registered inhabitants.

At their peak and at the time of the establishment of their so-called "New State" in 1990, the Maoists numbered over 7,000, including natives and settlers, 70 percent of them from Ayacucho and the rest from Huancavelican, Junin, and Lima.

In certain areas of the Perene, Satipo, Pangoa, and Sonomoro Valleys, the number of captives now exceeds 3,000.

The Shining Path advance has taken over entire communities, including Mataurinari, Semiriano Cachingarani, Alto Yurini, and Mapitiamani, towns between the Ene and San Martin de Pangoa.

The Ashaninkas have endured in flesh and blood the gradual advance of the Shining Path in the Central Jungle. Many of their relatives have been killed or recruited by the terrorists.

"The intention of the 'Reds' is to make the Ashaninkas disappear. How many of our brothers have already died!" says one native leader.

Poyeni, home of Ashaninka warrior Chief Kitoniro, once had 29 native communities. Only 10 or so are still resisting the terrorist assault. Over the past three years, they have watched the dizzying growth of Abimael Guzman's following.

Cold War

Beginning in 1990, terrorism has spread to the city of Satipo. Shining Path soldiers have moved from the Ene to the Pangoa, Sonomoro, and Mazamari Valleys. Terrorist contingents have done likewise in the Mantaro Valley.

The pincer advance was cut off by the Army in 1991. Based in Huancayo, EP [Peruvian Army] General Luis Perez Documet, political and military head of the Mantaro Front, headed up the antiterrorist struggle in the eight provinces of Junin, in coordination with the Huamanga and Ucayali Fronts.

Perez Documet began by organizing and arming antiterrorist patrols and expanded intelligence work. On 28 August 1991, the Army armed 300 patrol members from Satipo, most of them settlers, with Winchester breechloaders as a first phase that was to be expanded.

That year also recorded a noteworthy increase—perhaps the most marked in the country—of persons arrested and missing in the central mountain range. At the same time, reports of executions without trials proliferated.

In May 1991, some 500 soldiers from Perez Documet's forces were flown by helicopter from Satipo to the Ene Valley. Simultaneously, land forces belonging to the Antiterrorist Civil Defense Committees (DECAS) moved out from the Apurimac Valley in Ayacucho.

The joint operation opened up beachheads in Cutivireni and Esmeralda Valley on the Ene and at Puerto Ocopa on the Tambo River. Since then, security forces have not advanced significantly in the Central Jungle.

In the meantime, the Shining Path has managed to rebuild its ragged ranks. Casualties include "Lino," the commanding officer of the People's Guerrilla Army (EGP) in the Guerrilla Zone of the Ene, who was killed in an ambush laid by the Ayacucho DECAS.

Thanks to the tacit truce granted, the Maoists replaced their fallen comrades with others from their bases in the highlands of Razuhillca, Huanta, and Sello de Oro, located in the Apurimac Valley in San Miguel Province.

On 23 June 1991, the rebels dealt a surprise blow when they took San Miguel itself, capital of La Mar Province, with a contingent of 200 men, killing 14 civilians.

Likewise, the terrorists took advantage of the lull to rebuild their supply lines for provisions, weapons, and ammunition and to restore contact in the cities of Satipo, Huancayo, and Huanta, while steadily mobilizing EGP squads.

The Shining Path was thus able to advance toward the gates of the city of San Martin de Pangoa. On 29 October 1991, a Shining Path column entered Pangoa itself, 10 km from the Sinchis police base in Mazamari and 14 km from the Ollanta military base in Satipo.

Throughout 1992, the counterterrorist struggle was comprised of sporadic attacks to "take back" natives and settlers being held by the Maoists.

The purpose was to weaken the base of social support being coerced by the Shining Path and clean out "Red zones."

The lack of great offensive waves and the failure to win back territory enabled the Shining Path to launch attacks with some regularity against the native communities of Poyeni, Cutivireni, Puerto Ocopa, Mataurinari, Anapate, Boca Sanibeni, and towns organized into patrols.

On 23 January of this year, a group of 20 terrorists killed six Ashaninkas and wounded five others in the community of Mazoronkiari. Nevertheless, the natives managed to repel the attack.

On 28 January, Shining Path troops attacked the settlement of San Ramon de Pangoa. Seven peasants were killed.

On 4 May, 56 settlers from Satipo were rescued following a confrontation between an Army patrol and a terrorist column occurring in the native community of Saroshi located in the district of San Martin in Pangoa. Four Shining Path guerrillas died in the fray.

Not long after, on 24 June, contingents of soldiers and terrorists clashed once again, this time in Quimpiri in the Ene Valley. Two Shining Path troops were killed.

On 11 July, a column of 300 terrorists made a raid in the vicinity of the Sinchis barracks in Mazamari and killed three peasants in order to intimidate the local population and thereby thwart the census scheduled for 11 July.

On census day, an unknown number of Shining Path guerrillas entered the native communities of Nuevo Jerusalem, Dos de Mayo, and Santa Clara. The terrorists threatened to kill Ashaninkas who participated in the rural census.

That same day, Mazamari Sinchis on a routine patrol in the vicinity clashed with Shining Path terrorists who were haranguing people in the community of Santa Clara.

On 13 July, an Army patrol conducting a sweep in the district of San Martin de Pangoa detected a column of Shining Path terrorists, six of whom died in the clash.

Sweating Blood

Despite these chance confrontations between security forces and terrorists in precisely the same area decimated shortly thereafter by the Shining Path (taking the deplorable tally of 41 settlers and 21 Ashaninkas), the Ashaninkas have managed to keep a corridor virtually open.

The bloody operations that were designed as punishment by the terrorists (aimed at destroying the will to fight of the many hamlets of settlers and Ashaninka native communities mainly located in the district of San Martin de Pango) have been repeated in recent days.

While the official version put out by security forces claims an increase in operations and even talks of a counteroffensive, the Ashaninkas have witnessed a manifest lack of determination in these long and decisive weeks.

"Neither the Army nor the Police emerge from their barracks," says one native leader. "They claim credit for patrol operations conducted by our warriors," another reported, referring to the rescue of 78 natives allegedly made by the Army, according to a bulletin issued by the Ministry of Defense.

"Using five breechloaders, old shotguns, bows and arrows, and spears, we rescued our Indian brothers from Samaniato who had been captured by the Shining Path," one Ashaninka warrior proclaimed.

The city of Satipo is home to the general headquarters of the Army in a vast province in the high Peruvian jungle the size of Belgium. The Ollanta detachment in Satipo has 120 men, including enlisted men and officers.

Army outposts are in Puerto Ocopa, a native town located very close to the confluence of the Ene, Tambo, and Perene Rivers, a base with over 70 men, many of them from the jungle.

The Army has two detachments in the Ene Valley: one with 60 troops in Cutivireni, located in the central valley, and another of like size in Esmeralda Valley, far south near the confluence with the Mantaro and Apurimac Rivers.

In Ciudad de Dios, a base between the Ene and Pangoa Valleys near the edge of territory controlled by the Shining Path, there is another Army contingent of 65 soldiers which arrived on 16 March of this year.

The Mantaro Front command has decided to set up a new military base to be located in Tsiriari, a native community besieged by the Shining Path and threatened by the terrorist column that attacked Tahuantinsuyo, Santa Isabel, Sol de Oro, Monterrico, and Pueblo Libre on 18 August.

In the meantime, the Marines have a base in the native community of Poyeni. There, on the banks of the Tambo River, 30 troops have been stationed since January 1993 coordinating actions with the 800 Ashaninka patrol members from the valley.

For their part, in addition to the 200 troops assigned to the Mazamari base (the 48th National Police Command), the Sinchis have another 15 men in San Martin de Pangoa and 20 in Nailamp de Sonomoro.

In all, 640 soldiers, Marines, and Sinchis are billeted at nine bases in the Central Jungle in Satipo Province. In the meantime, native patrols have over 4,000 men deployed in over 100 communities.

Poorly armed, most with no more than bows and arrows, the Ashaninkas have throughout these years of hard struggle maintained a firm determination to fight. Now, after the cunning Shining Path attack, they are more determined than ever to rescue their 5,000 brothers under the terrorists' control and to pacify their beleaguered territories.

* Leader Predicts Victory

94WR0007X Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish
11 Sep 93 pp 18-19

[Interview with Ashaninka Chief Kitoniro by Francisco Reyes, from the Investigative Unit; place and date not given; first three paragraphs introduction: "We Will Finish Off the Shining Path in Three Months"]

[Text] Warrior Kitoniro says it will be easy to defeat the terrorists.

Ashaninkas are only asking for weapons in order to attack terrorist bases from five fronts.

Kitoniro is the highest-ranking Ashaninka leader in the Central Jungle, heading the native forces that have undertaken one of the most spectacular deployments aimed at putting an end to the Shining Path's rule.

Fighting the Shining Path is nothing new for this warrior, who has personally waged several battles and won them all. He faced annihilation on many occasions.

For obvious reasons of security, his identity is not revealed. In the following interview, he tells of the hardships he has known and expresses his desire to destroy the Maoists who rule Ashaninka lands without mercy.

[Reyes] Is it possible to defeat the Shining Path?

[Kitoniro] Yes. We Ashaninkas can defeat the Shining Path. Although the Army has failed, we are ready to eliminate it from our territories. Waging the war should be up to us.

[Reyes] Then what about the military?

[Kitoniro] We let them do it and they failed. We gave them all the help we could, but they do not know how to fight in the jungle. We will lead the patrols in the Red zones ourselves. This does not mean that we are going to do without the military. We need them because they have the weapons.

[Reyes] Why do you think the Shining Path has managed to control such a large area in Ashaninka territory?

[Kitoniro] The troops and officers arriving in Satipo are not from the jungle. They do not know the mountains. In contrast, we can climb 10 mountains, cross rivers and streams, and still keep going. At Chorrillos, they do not train them to fight in the jungle.

[Reyes] How should one fight in the jungle?

[Kitoniro] We want them to respect the way we fight. For example, when soldiers are near a Shining Path camp, they fire their weapons and the only thing they accomplish is to frighten our captured brothers and alert those in charge so they can escape.

The military must understand that fighting in the jungle is different from fighting in the mountains or along the coast. The Marines operating on the Tambo did respect our superior knowledge of the terrain. We had close coordination with 2d Lieutenant Apolo on patrols and we made progress on the Tambo.

[Reyes] Has it always been this way?

[Kitoniro] No, although we do recognize the work done by Army Major Carlos Mendez, who was at the military base in the city of Satipo in 1991 and 1992. When he was there, he coordinated action with the Ashaninkas. He even recruited young warriors from Puerto Ocopa and that way succeeded in pacifying the area around the city of Satipo.

Mendez would patrol the city and hamlets near Satipo every week. He captured many Shining Path terrorists on these operations. However, in November 1992, they transferred him to Jauja and his work remained unfinished.

[Reyes] Now what?

[Kitoniro] The soldiers at Satipo do not leave their barracks. They are not familiar with the area and the soldiers recruited are not Ashaninkas, but come from Jauja.

Want the Reins

[Reyes] Why does the Army not coordinate operations with you?

[Kitoniro] The Army does not trust the Ashaninkas. This is not true of the settlers. The officers think that only the settlers know how to use weapons. And yet, there are many former soldiers among the Ashaninkas and we know how to use weapons.

[Reyes] What do you propose?

[Kitoniro] The discharged Ashaninka soldiers should be given rifles and they should head patrols because of their superior knowledge of the terrain. At the end of the operation, they would return the weapons issued.

[Reyes] How many weapons do you need?

[Kitoniro] We need 2,000 breechloaders for our brothers from Tambo, Ene, Pangoa, Perene, and Gran Pajonal. If we had weapons, we would go into the Red zone on five fronts. The purpose is to rescue our Ashaninka brothers held by the terrorists, capture their officers, and destroy their bases.

[Reyes] But the Shining Path must be prepared for such a potential offensive.

[Kitoniro] It would be easy to defeat the Shining Path. Defectors and recovered prisoners would be our best guides. They know the terrain and the location of the Shining Path camps perfectly.

[Reyes] What would you do with the officers captured?

[Kitoniro] If we capture Shining Path leaders, we will not turn them over to the military. We will handle them ourselves. We will leave them for the vultures. We will rescue our brothers being held by the terrorists.

[Reyes] So you will eliminate the Shining Path members you capture?

[Kitoniro] Only the leaders. We want them to take Abimael Guzman into the jungle and then we will handle things ourselves. We have to finish off the terrorists once and for all before they finish us off.

[Reyes] You yourselves allowed terrorism to advance all these years.

[Kitoniro] What could we do when we had no weapons? We had only arrows, while the Shining Path had rifles and machine guns.

Example of Firmness

[Reyes] Have you set a deadline for beginning the offensive?

[Kitoniro] As soon as they give us the weapons, we will launch the attack. We will finish off the Shining Path in three months.

[Reyes] Are there Ashaninkas in the Shining Path?

[Kitoniro] Yes. We have already identified them. There are about 20.

[Reyes] Did the Ashaninkas initially support the Shining Path?

[Kitoniro] No. The Shining Path dominated our brothers by force. Very few were won over by them.

[Reyes] Who, for example?

[Kitoniro] Hernan Puyentino, for example. He was president of the Tambo River Ashaninka Confederation. He worked as a sanitary technician and traveled to Satipo whenever he wanted. That is where he got ammunition. The Shining Path won him over in 1988 in the community of Otica. Hernan convinced his people to follow the Shining Path.

Hernan deceived his people, telling them they were going to take power, that they had already elected their president: "You will have television sets and radios. The settlers will not take your land," he told them.

Then he started going around to other communities on the Tambo River. At that time, we had no weapons and were not organized. Anyone opposing him was threatened with death. We tried to organize self-defense patrols, but with great caution.

Hernan found out about our plans. He and his people planned an attack on my community in November 1992. While they were waiting for it to get dark so they could enter the town, we sensed their presence. We immediately assembled a patrol of eight men armed with shotguns and arrows.

We followed the path they had cut through the mountain. It was exactly six o'clock. Hernan was with a woman roasting a piece of yucca. The other Shining Path members were scattered around. We surrounded them.

Our intention was to take Hernan alive, but when we went in, he reacted immediately and tried to shoot at us. We had no choice but to fire first. We shot him in the legs. He fell into a little gorge and tried to get out his weapon once again. The second shot was fatal.

Hernan had on him a complete plan for attacking Poyeni. First he was going to kill the leaders of Tsoroja and then recruit the townspeople by force and use them to raid Poyeni.

Hernan already knew of my intentions. He was going to kill me if he managed to enter Tsoroja. The Shining Path soldiers were already looking for me everywhere, but could not find me because I was constantly traveling to Satipo, Poyeni, and Puerto Ocopa, doing things for my community.

[Reyes] How many times did you escape death at the hands of the Shining Path?

[Kitoniro] The first time they tried to get me was in Cascada in the Perene Valley. That was in 1989. A column of Shining Path troops arrived and called Hector Davila, the community's president. They told the people to join their armed struggle, but the people did not say yes or no. They asked for time to make a decision. The Shining Path withdrew saying they would return in two weeks. Without wasting any time, we organized the first patrols in the valley. The Shining Path found out and

fled. They were already determined to kill the leaders in order to take the town and recruit young people.

The second time they had me in their hands was in Puerto Ocopa, where I had gone with my brother. That was in March of 1990. The Shining path commander, "Paujil," recognized me. He knew I had been discharged from the Army and warned me that I should join their ranks.

I told him I would join the next time, but first I had to solve some personal problems. "If you don't show up, I'll come looking for you with my people," he said. He could not do anything to me because there were a lot of people around and he was alone. "Next time I will kill you," he said.

The third time was when I was traveling to Puerto Ocopa again. They stopped me in a bar. I started to drink with them and decided to order all the beer I could. We drank all day long until they got drunk. Early in the morning, I went down to the river and took a canoe. I made it to the next town and asked to borrow a *peque-peque*. That is how I managed to get to Poyeni safely. At dawn, the Shining Path terrorists looked for me everywhere. That time I was close by.

The last time they tried to kill me was in Satipo in August of 1991. At the time, the Shining Path walked around the city as if they owned it. When I went to say hello to some friends in a bar, I met up with a Shining Path officer, the Ashaninka teacher from Puerto Ocopa, Besada Antunez.

He asked me to join him at his table, which I did. I knew that everyone with him was armed. I had to make a decision and do something so I ordered some beer. I deliberately put my hands in my pockets and told them I had no money, that I had to go to my hotel and would be right back. They stood up with me. I told them I was staying at Los Cafetaleros. They left right after me, but headed in the opposite direction, trying to take me by surprise when I returned. As soon as I realized it, I hid in a restaurant all day long and was able to leave in the middle of the night. They will not rest until they see me dead and have murdered all the Ashaninka leaders. It's them or us.

Venezuela

Defense Minister Reviews Political Situation

PA2910052293 Caracas Radio Caracas Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Interview with Venezuelan Defense Minister Vice Admiral Radames Munoz Leon by news director Eladio Lares in Caracas; from "The Observer" newscast—live]

[Text] [Lares] Welcome, Mr. Minister and good evening.

[Munoz] Good evening, Eladio and television viewers. Thank you for this opportunity. I am at your disposal.

[Lares] Minister, there is one question that has not been answered: Are there or are there not any generals conspiring? I thinks it's high time to end this controversy once and for all. All this finger pointing and accusation: you said this I said that, you told me, I have the names, no you do not. Incidentally, the accuser went to court today [25 October] and could not see the judge. This is the first question: Are there or are there not any generals conspiring? If so, do you have the list?

[Munoz] As far as I know, there are no general officers conspiring at this time. I have no such information, and I do not have the list. I was watching Jose Vicente Rangel's program yesterday [24 October], just like any other Venezuelan, and I felt like a fool, because he never gave the names. Instead, he denied it. I would also like to say that I agree with him when he says he gave a political answer, because he said absolutely nothing. Regarding your second question, he was summoned yesterday between 0900 and 1000.

[Lares] Yesterday?

[Munoz] Yes, yesterday—Sunday. According to the judge, he did not turn up until after midday. The judge got tired of waiting and left to tend to some other business. He told me that he did not summon him for today and that he would contact him by way of the Directorate of Military Intelligence [DIM]. Now, as he refuses to respond to the DIM, based probably on information he got from an officer, perhaps, he went back to Fort Tiuna to see the judge when the judge was busy hearing other testimony in the same case. There are no names on my agenda or in my mail, my office, or in my possession at all, as Jose Vicente Rangel said.

[Lares] So, is this a cockamamy story? Did someone make it up? What's behind all this?

[Munoz] You must remember that I have never said there are generals around planning a coup d'etat. He said that and affirmed that there were four. I have no idea where he got that number, but he said that I had them. He said the report was from the DIM and that according to them these people were involved in a coup attempt. I do not know where he got that information from, but he said it was true. The only thing in this cockamamy story he does not know are the names, and no one believes that. He supposedly knows everything but the names.

[Lares] Minister, you have also had a very interesting and public controversy with presidential candidate Rafael Caldera. You are the minister of defense. The minister of defense is appointed and removed by the president. What happens if Rafael Caldera wins the presidency?

[Munoz] That is something we would have to ask him directly. Now, I do not think I have had a public controversy with Mr. Caldera. Certain inappropriate things were said about the Armed Forces, like about the existence of a mafia. There has been a certain degree of confusion on this. I have made it clear that there is no

such mafia within the Armed Forces. It is quite inconsiderate to the Armed Forces, the presidents, or the former presidents rather, to say that any new president could conceivably have his own mafia or that such a thing could exist in the Armed Forces.

[Lares] Minister, the next congress is believed to be a very pluralist one. There is even the possibility that many of those who you fought as guerrillas during the 1960's could be elected members of congress, depending on the results of the coming election. How do the Armed Forces view this phenomenon? As you know, Congress determines which officers will be promoted, decides on salary increases and fringe benefits enjoyed by the Armed Forces, and so on. How do you view this? How are you preparing for this?

[Munoz] We are immersed in the democratic game, and we respect the civilian authorities' decision. Above all else, however, we respect the Venezuelan people's willingness to participate in the elections and elect the leaders they regard as decent to lead the country forward. We expect the people to believe they are voting for the future and not for destruction. All this is possible in the democratic game. Maybe there have been some mistakes in electing people who committed offenses in the past. Anyway, the Venezuelan legal system accepts these mistakes, and we accept them as they are. We must say we share the same concerns and that we hope this guarantee of a decent, pure, and truly democratic administration can be regarded seriously. If promotions are based on merit, we will have no trouble in dealing with it, because we desire it as an organization.

[Lares] You are aware of your great image in the country at present, are you not? People like what you say and do. People like to hear others speak of order and peace. A certain type of person, particularly certain politicians, perceive there is something else beyond this image of yours in the country, something beyond the purely military. Do you believe this?

[Munoz] No. I am not willing to accept any political position. I do not want to delve into politics. I want to lead a private life like any Venezuelan in a better and brighter Venezuela. I can say this publicly: I hold no political aspirations of any sort whatsoever. I believe people should live in peace and harmony. People want the country to recover some measure of decency and do not want their legs pulled, as happened with the four coupist generals.

By the way, I have to wonder what kind of citizen Jose Vicente Rangel is, especially when he says he would not release the names even if he had them and, therefore, could not be labeled as an informer. In other words, all he wants is not to labeled as an informer, and this is more important for him than 20 million Venezuelans. I do not understand this type of patriotism or the democratic position he brags so much about. The country and myself are giving him a chance to uncover a plot, if there is one, headed by a general. You know how powerful a general is. He is not talking of one but of four.

Gosh, I am trying to save the country and lead it on the path of democracy. I am struggling to eliminate everything that sounds like a coup. You have seen me on many programs coming out to calm the people and persuade them that there is no coup. I have a democratic spirit, and I show it often. I have nothing else to look forward to after my retirement. I will retire in July or whenever the new president decides. While I am the defense minister, I am responsible for creating a climate of security and making the Venezuelan people willing to defend the next president's future in the elections.

[Lares] Thanks, Mr. Minister. One last question: How far can the Armed Forces defend this order and institution?

[Munoz] That is a difficult question. We must understand that some dark interests are trying to get innocent people involved in this conflict. A situation of popular rebellion might occur, where the Armed Forces would have to intervene. How far can the Armed Forces go in attacking their own people?

I think that what should be done is to educate and to support the president of the Republic in the so-called national pact in order that this type of situation does not take place. If we are true and patriotic Venezuelans, and if we love our people, we must seek happiness, peace, and order and abandon this idea of withholding truth of what will happen to the Venezuelan people once the new president, whoever he is, assumes office and starts to deal with economic and social matters that truly affect the population's future.

Defense Minister on Returning Coupist Officers

PA2810154793 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1550 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Interview with Vice Admiral Radames Munoz Leon by Melissa Soto from Miraflores Presidential Palace—live]

[Text] [Soto] We are now at the Miraflores Presidential Palace. Standing beside me is Defense Minister Vice Admiral Radames Munoz Leon, who will give us information on the two Air Force officers who will be returning from Peru. Mr. Minister, we would like to know the names of these returning officers and how they will be treated once they arrive in Venezuela.

[Munoz] The returning officers are Air Force Captain (Luis Atar Medina) and Air Force Lieutenant Hermes Rodriguez Rengifo. Both officers voluntarily contacted the Defense Ministry and were provided with the necessary airfare and passports to enable them to return to the country, as was promised when the arrangements were made. The officers are returning under normal conditions and will be received by the appropriate authorities. Once they have arrived, they will be transferred to debriefing centers for questioning with respect to their

motives for wanting to return, or any other information they would like to provide. Afterwards they will be turned over to the appropriate judicial authority, who will decide where they will be detained. They will not receive any special privileges but will have to stand trial. However, it is necessary to state publicly that the Defense Ministry is pleased with the decision they have made, which we consider appropriate and very courageous. Most of all, we think these young men have made a brave decision because they decided to stand trial and solve their problems once and for all.

[Soto] Are you aware of any special reason why they would have decided to return? Are there any problems in Peru?

[Munoz] I have no information about this. I do not want to venture an opinion or make any conjectures on the issue. I think it is preferable to wait for them to arrive and tell the security agencies the reasons they decided to return. Afterwards we will disclose these reasons to the public.

[Soto] Changing the subject, we would like to know if it is true that Armed Forces personnel are preparing to travel to Peru?

[Munoz] So far, I know nothing about this.

[Soto] Have you received any request from the United Nations?

[Munoz] No, we have not.

[Soto] Thank you very much. We will be staying here at the Miraflores Palace awaiting any other developments. So far we can only announce that unofficially we were able to learn that the single bonus to be distributed among public sector workers was finally approved. It was also learned that the bonus will cover the equivalent of two months salary. Likewise, we were able to learn from official sources that an additional credit requirement was also approved by the cabinet ministers.

Two Military Coup Attempt Participants Return From Peru

PA2810231593 Caracas Radio Caracas Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Report by Orlando Martinez; from "The Observer" newscast]

[Text] After 11 months in Peru, two of the military officers who participated in the 27 November coup attempt have returned to Venezuela to submit themselves to the national authorities.

At 1600 on 27 October, Captain Luis (Jazar) Medina and Lieutenant Hermes Rodriguez arrived at Simon Bolivar International Airport in Maiquetia from Peru. These officers are part of the group of Venezuelan military officers who sought asylum in the Republic of Peru following the 27 November 1993 coup attempt.

Afterward, the Armed Forces officers involved in the military rebellion traveled to the City of Iquitos aboard a C-130 Hercules Air Force plane and requested asylum, which Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori granted several days later.

At that time, a news team of "The Observer" traveled to that city in northern Peru and talked to the officers involved in the rebellion. Later, a group of noncommissioned officers and soldiers returned to the country to face military justice. Today, Capt. Luis (Jazar) Medina and Lt. Hermes Rodriguez did the same to face the arrest warrants issued against them.

It should be cited that agents of the Directorate of Military Intelligence [DIM] blocked the work of journalists, who simply wanted to convey to you the first statements and footage of the two military officers who returned to the country.

[Begin recording] [Leopoldo Rodriguez, relative of Lt. Hermes Rodriguez] We understand that they believe better conditions exist now than before to resolve their situation.

[Unidentified reporter] Did they talk to you or the military judge to obtain a possible presidential pardon shortly?

[Rodriguez] The idea is to request that, but they first had to surrender to justice and that is why they are here. [end recording]

According to reports obtained at the Simon Bolivar International Airport in Maiquetia, both Capt. Luis (Jazar) Medina and Lt. Hermes Rodriguez were given medical examinations, with prosecutors of the Attorney General's Office present, and they were later transferred to DIM headquarters.

President Tells Labor Group No More Privatizations Planned

PA2910032893 Caracas EL DIARIO DE CARACAS in Spanish 27 Oct p 18

[Article by Armando Pernia]

[Text] According to CTV [Confederation of Venezuelan Workers] leader Angel Zerpa Mirabal, President Ramon J. Velasquez has guaranteed his organization that there will not be any more privatizations during his administration, thereby entirely dismissing the possibility of the sale of Maiquetia Airport and the companies operated by CVG [Venezuelan Guayana Corporation], including any plans for a merger.

Zerpa said that, as a result, there are serious differences between Velasquez and CVG President Francisco Layrisse, who has favored sale and merger plans for the Sidor, Venalum, and Interalumina companies.

Yesterday, the CTV Board of Directors handed President Velasquez a document requesting the suspension of

the value-added tax, outlining the need to increase salaries according to the rates of inflation and "speculation," and recommending the definitive suspension of the announced privatizations "because they affect strategic sectors of the Venezuelan state."

The president appointed a commission comprising the ministers of Labor, Coordination and Planning, Finance, and Health to discuss these requests with the CTV. However, Zerpa Mirabal announced that the CTV will call for an extraordinary meeting to take the necessary measures "to defend our requests, without ruling out more combative actions, even though we hope the conflicts will cease."

Exemption for Orimulsion

In the coming months, the EEC might approve the total exemption of customs duties for Orimulsion, because it is a natural bitumen and not a synthetic fuel. Venezuela has advocated this view, which is supported by Abel Matute, the EEC's transportation and energy commissioner.

The diplomatic official met yesterday afternoon with President Velasquez, who expressed the government's concern over the duties charged for this type of fuel—which is patented by the national oil industry—in the European market, particularly in England and Spain.

Matute expressed his total confidence that the reconsideration of the tariffs will lead "invariably to an exemption of the customs duties for Venezuela's Orimulsion."

Velasquez Reverses Pardon Granted to Drug Trafficker

PA2910042893 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1550 GMT 28 Oct 93

[From "The News" newscast]

[Text] Maria Auxiliadora Tarazona, the president's former private secretary, is being held at the Technical Judicial Police [PTJ], where the reasons why a pardon was granted to drug trafficker Larry Tovar are being investigated. Reportedly, the now former official presented the document to President Velasquez without advising him of what he was about to sign; in addition, 15th Criminal Justice Blanca Romero de Castillo today will conclude a summary inquiry on those who ordered Tovar's release without a release warrant. As reported earlier, President Velasquez signed the pardon and then reversed it, explaining to the public what had happened.

[Begin recording] [Velasquez] I must believe that when a resolution is brought to my office, all of the proper steps have been taken according to law. I signed it, certain that the document had originated at the Legal Advisory Office. Given the circumstances, the proper thing to do was to call the PTJ, conduct the proper investigations, and reverse the pardon decree, as it will surely appear in the gazette tonight.

[Unidentified reporter] [Words indistinct].

[Velasquez] I repeat, I must be able to trust the officials who bring resolutions to my office. I have no right to think that there will always be an oversight, ill will, or anything other than rigorous obedience to the law, as expected from every public official. [end recording]

In addition, Justice Minister Fermin Marmol Leon said the pardon was granted as the result of a mistake and that, consequently, guilty officials will be removed and turned over to the courts.

[Begin recording] [Marmol] As the media reported, the pardon was released with the justice minister's signature; in other words, the pardon is groundless. A new resolution has been issued by the president correcting the mistake. [end recording]

Security agencies, meanwhile, are looking for Tovar who, it was unofficially reported, paid 80 million bolivares for his release.

* Industrial Production Drops in Second Quarter

94SM0021A Caracas EL DIARIO DE CARACAS in Spanish 14 Sep 93 p 16

[Article by Luisa Amelia Maracara]

[Text] The Industrial Situation Survey prepared for Conindustria [Venezuelan Council of Industry] by Cidre [Information, Documentation, and Reference Center] reported that production in the private industrial sector fell 26.8 points during the second quarter of this year in relation to the first quarter, when it was 27.8 percent.

This steep decline in industrial production was most severe in the central region, where production fell from 22.36 percent in the first quarter of the year to -9.51 percent. This sharp drop in production in the central region is related to the downturn in orders. Most of the textile industries are located in this area; they have been facing problems resulting from "unfair competition and contraband."

Another factor affecting the decline in production was the decrease in orders, down to 0.3 percent. This is a 21-point drop from the first quarter of 1993, when it was 21.3 percent.

"This decline in orders was essentially caused by weak demand in all the industrial sectors analyzed, as a result of the Venezuelan people's reduced purchasing power, and secondly, by restrictions on liquidity and production credit, which has kept national production from getting financing at reasonable interest rates," said Rogelio Carrillo Penso, president of Cidre, who provided information on the survey.

Another declining indicator was the number of persons employed in the private industrial sector, down from 531,096 to 494,904. This is a loss of 36,192 jobs.

"This 6.8 percent decline for the quarter gives an annualized rate of job losses of about 27 percent."

In general, businessmen are still optimistic about Venezuela's overall situation; however, this indicator fell drastically from 40 percent for the first quarter of 1993 to 23.7 percent in the second quarter, a drop of 16.3 points.

Investment expectations fell from 37.3 percent to 10.8 percent, this indicator's lowest level during the past three years. "The atmosphere of political uncertainty generated this result."

Another fact shown by the survey is that the cost of raw materials has increased in 97.3 percent of industries. Of this 97.3 percent, only 10 percent have not shifted these costs to the final products.

"The indicators broken down by area of activity show the impact of economic factors on industries."

According to this survey, the textile, clothing, leather goods, and footwear sector, Venezuela's fourth largest employer, had the lowest average capacity in use and the shortest period of employment, 2.90 months.

In regional terms, the region with the best indicators was Guayana, as its capacity in use was 75.50 percent, up 3.75 points from the preceding quarter.

The capital area had the greatest downturn in economic indicators, finishing in sixth place in capacity used and fifth in terms of the period of employment.

* Editorial Warns of Possible Electoral Fraud

94SM0021B Caracas EL DIARIO DE CARACAS in Spanish 15 Sep 93 p 2

[Editorial: "A Fraud Is Brewing Here"]

[Text] We would prefer not to have to report this, but right now the parties are disregarding the people's will that is supposed to be expressed in the presidential and parliamentary elections scheduled for 5 December.

There is a danger that the community may become disgusted and abstain, which would play into the hands of coup supporters or party hacks who want a high rate of abstentions, so the votes of their machinery will carry more weight and that will strengthen their old "democracy." But, on the other hand, covering up the parties's maneuvers in the CSE [Supreme Electoral Council], so that their will and not that of the people will be expressed on election day, would be tantamount to concealing that they are trying to use the vote to validate a legal fraud, and that would also damage the true democracy we want.

The proposal that we should vote a straight party line by putting on a single card the three votes per slate was the latest party maneuver to evade what little they have conceded to the uninomial system in the new Suffrage Law.

But that is nothing, if we realize what it means to go into the elections with the DIEX [Directorate of Identification and Alien Affairs] under investigation for corruption. Or what it means to have a budget shortfall of over 360 million bolivars in the CSE, caused by administrative chaos. This chaos is so openly acknowledged by the organization that it issued a statement reporting that a budget oversight panel had stepped in to regulate the payment of per diem expenses and vehicle usage, eliminating signing for restaurant bills and the use of cellular phones by officials.

Even worse is the composition of the Electoral Boards. Their members, who will serve for five-year terms, were appointed by this CSE whose functions will cease after these elections, and whose members were chosen by the central party leaders. And now comes the first obvious irregularity; they left independent candidates out of the Principal Board for the Federal District and appointed others who were closely identified with the parties. It is these highly partisan boards that will appoint the members of the municipal boards, who will certainly also be highly partisan members, and the latter will then appoint the election panels.

The most efficient computer and the best law in the world can be of no use if the people who handle these functions are not of proven integrity and independence. Electoral fraud has always been attached to a person and had partisan colors, for it is political activists who "work" in the process. The new law partially corrected that possibility. But the party leadership is also getting around this law.

They forget that crises have phases; 27 February could have been the beginning of the end of a phase whose definitive end could come on this 5 December. Let us not allow that day to become the beginning of the end of democracy understood to be a system based upon legitimacy and not just on legalism. A president born of fraud would be a fraud, and a congress born of fraud would also be a fraud. And that fraud is now brewing.

Let us reflect upon this.

* Finance Minister on Postponement of Payments

94SM0021C Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 16 Sep 93 p 1 Section 2

[Article by Alfredo Carquez Saavedra]

[Text] The financial austerity that the Venezuelan Government is now experiencing will force it to postpone payment of approximately 156 billion bolivars that should have been paid this year, Minister of Finance Carlos Rafael Silva explained yesterday.

The head of the Finance Ministry also said that to date about 78 billion bolivars in requests for additional funding have been filed by various government agencies.

He denied that the Finance Ministry was unwilling to fund these requests. Rather, he said this is a national problem related to the "difficult" situation that the Treasury has been dealing with, and it has had to "comply with a national order of priorities."

According to Silva, preference has been given to matters related to the operations of the public administration. They have concentrated on paying employee salaries and making foreign debt service payments.

On the latter topic, he commented that the fundamental reason is not only are we overburdened by the current foreign debt, but in addition "we will have to continue to borrow in order to meet government expenses." He insisted that it is hard to get those who have financial resources "to lend to us if we do not honor the commitments we have already made."

But at the same time, requests, to date, for additional funding come to a total of 78 billion bolivars, he said.

He reported that the Finance Ministry is "making the maximum possible effort to meet all those requests for funds." But he noted that this is not always possible "for, as everyone knows, there are about 150 billion bolivars in payment orders that have been fully processed and that have not yet been paid, purely and simply because no resources are available."

He noted that the problem with the construction industry is that projects begun in 1992, which were to be paid during the current year, have not been paid for because it was thought that these debts would be paid off by the placement of Treasury bills with a two-year term. These are securities that are not easy to place because no one wants to invest in securities whose maturity dates "go beyond what is reasonable during inflationary periods."

He said that because the tax bills were not passed, the issue of Treasury bills was authorized. And as these laws were not approved when submitted, this created a gap between the origin of the spending and the collection of the revenue, "something that we are trying to correct, but now we are already late with the new revenues to be collected under the Financing Law.'"

In describing the fiscal crisis the Velasquez provisional government is coping with, he said that of total budget expenditures of 543 billion bolivars, "there are still debts outstanding from 1992, amounting to 62 billion bolivars, that must be paid between September and December of this year. In addition, there will be debts outstanding for 1993 to be paid in 1994, amounting to 156 billion bolivars."

Silva commented that debts outstanding is a standard concept used in Public Administration. But in the past it was because administrative processing of payment orders created payment delays, although the money always existed. At the present time that situation arises "purely and simply because there is no money available for payment."

"We have thought about how we are going to come up with those 449 billion bolivars; we think there are extraordinary petroleum revenues amounting to 228 billion bolivars and nonpetroleum revenues of 118 billion bolivars, giving a total of 346 billion. In addition there are extraordinary revenues from the privatization process from which we hope to get 16 billion; about 8 billion in reimbursements; 17 billion from the National Treasury; and a loan of 70 billion bolivars."

"That comes to a total of 448 billion bolivars, leaving us with a cash flow gap of 1 billion bolivars, which is relatively manageable."

He insisted that one way to improve Venezuela's present situation is by improving not only collections of existing taxes, but possibly by reducing government spending.

On the VAT [Value Added Tax], he said that on Monday evening a meeting was held of the Tax Commission, composed of representatives from the Finance Ministry, from the Attorney General's Office, and a group of "outstanding legal experts." At the meeting there was apparently no in-depth discussion of the VAT bill.

When asked about whether the VAT would be approved sometime this week, he said that on Thursday morning (today) it would be discussed (once again) in the cabinet. He noted that this delay is highly detrimental, both for the original concept of the bill and for tax collections.

In discussing the future distribution of the funds that will be generated by the VAT, he said that the Finance Ministry's proposal is that only 30 percent should go to regional governments, with the national government getting the remaining 70 percent. He said that proposal was accepted at the meeting he held in Miraflores with the Minister of Decentralization, Alan Brewer Carias, and regional leaders.

He explained that the arguments that he used at that meeting were based on the fact that the national government has expenses for which it alone is responsible, such as national debt service payments, defense, and national security.

* Velasquez Presents Radical Cause Program

94SM0021D Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 18 Sep 93 p 14 Section 1

[Article by Vladimir Villegas Poljak]

[Text] "Any program of change is only meaningful with the people and from the people," stated Causa R [Radical Cause] presidential candidate Andres Velasquez, when he presented the group's campaign platform. It contains the principal guidelines "for bringing about a productive revolution and a true and radical cultural transformation."

The meeting, held in the Grand Salon of the Caracas Hilton, was attended by representatives of a wide variety of social, professional, cultural, sports, and economic sectors of Venezuela. Those attending included: Alberto Quiros Corradi; ball player Antonio Armas; musicologist Rafael Salazar; veteran sports manager Horacio Esteves; the mayor of La Victoria and MAS [Movement Toward Socialism] leader Ismael Garcia; Enrique Ochoa Antich, also an MAS leader; journalists Alexis Rosas and Martin Pacheco, Causa R candidates for deputies; the mayor of Caracas, Aristobulo Isturiz; the mayor of Caroni, Clemente Scotto; Anibal Leon, dean of the Faculty of Humanities of ULA [Los Andes University]; Jesus Perez, secretary general of the SNTP [National Trade Union of Press Workers]; architect Fruto Vivas; Jose Giacoppini Zarraga; General Alberto Muller Rosas; Gladys de Arias Cardenas; and Causa R's top leaders, including Pablo Medina, Jose Lira, and Carlos Melo.

Before Velasquez gave his presentation, Pablo Medina spoke, describing his party's candidate as "the man for difficult times." He said that when Causa R's standard-bearer was governor of Bolivar State, he met the three basic requirements: to govern without stealing, to govern effectively, and to govern democratically.

"I Want Them All"

With the above words candidate Andres Velasquez began his speech, which was carried by radio and television. He went on to say: "We want a country that responds to our needs for a just, balanced, free, tolerant, supportive, efficient, productive, and civilized society."

As his platform's central plank, Andres Velasquez emphasized the need for a rapid and profound change in the people's educational level and a modification in the systems of producing and distributing wealth.

Petroleum Strategy

Velasquez said that during his term there will be substantial changes in the current petroleum strategy.

"Every day increasing our hydrocarbon revenues depends less on the production controls that we maintain, along with the other OPEC members. As a consequence, increased revenues will come to depend more on our capacity to produce and transform hydrocarbons, thus increasing exports, as well as their use in manufactured products."

In dealing with OPEC, Velasquez said that his policy will focus on "maintaining our commitments to defend our hydrocarbons' markets and prices." He said that Venezuela will keep its commitments and its relationship with OPEC so long as the other cartel partners respect them, and so long as that is in the national interest.

Strengthening OPEC is another of the basic petroleum policy lines that Velasquez's administration will promote. He said that the policy of complementary strategic associations will be evaluated. The candidate said that we need to consider the possibility of promoting national private investment in petroleum.

Velasquez touched on other vital issues, like agriculture and food production, which he called a national security issue. He announced that his government proposes to bring 12 million hectares into production in order to begin the fight against malnutrition.

Yes to Foreign Banks

Andres Velasquez said foreign banks should be be allowed to enter Venezuela gradually in order to make the financial sector become more efficient and competitive, "for in this time of trade liberalization, the financial sector cannot remain closed." According to Velasquez, we also need to redefine the role of the Central Bank of Venezuela and the nation's other financial institutions.

Another feature of his economic plan is renegotiating our foreign debt so that Venezuela's creditors will understand that Venezuela needs their cooperation, particularly "in terms of information on investments of billions of dollars abroad by Venezuelans, money which was not always obtained legally."

Democratization of Society

On this issue, Velasquez departed from his prepared text and called for a true democratization of the unions. He drew applause when he said that it seems to be easier to become president of Venezuela than president of the Executive Board of the CTV [Confederation of Venezuelan Workers].

He urged the democratization of the unions, professional groups, civic associations, and the universities, the expansion of the state's decentralization process, and the inclusion of the referendum procedure in the National Constitution.

Velasquez also devoted a good part of his speech to education. He criticized the closing of the industrial and technical schools by Rafael Caldera's administration and pledged to reopen them, as part of an overall educational strategy for a nation in crisis. He called for the total education of the children and adolescents, the restoration of the physical educational infrastructure throughout Venezuela, and the formation of an ambitious educational plan for urban neighborhoods, as well as establishing links between higher education programs and the state's plans.

"The country we want is now in sight. We have the people, we have material and spiritual resources. And now we also have the political will. This is a fact. Very soon we are going to move forward with this project. The Cause is Venezuela. We are going to win in December," the Radical Cause candidate said in concluding his speech.